

UZEE, BUTLER, ARCENEAUX & BOWES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

2067 PAXTON STREET
HARVEY, LOUISIANA 70058

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MEMBERS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

September 30, 2025

Emily Stafford
Reporting Database Coordinator
Louisiana Legislative Auditor
P. O. Box 94397
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-96397

RE: Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Entity #-8228 Period:12/31/2024

Emily:

Attached is the 12/31/2024 Audit Report and the 12/31/2024 Agreed Upon Procedures Report for the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Company #1 as requested. The Agreed Upon Procedures Report was not originally submitted in the same electronic file with the Audit.

If you need additional information, please contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James L. Butler
Certified Public Accountant

**BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1
BRIDGE CITY, LOUISIANA**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To Board of Directors of
Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. # 1
Bridge City, Louisiana

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. # 1 (a Louisiana nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. # 1 as of December 31, 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be Independent of Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1 and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Management's Responsibility 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; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities 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 Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1'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 Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1'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.

Supplemental Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to the agency head or chief executive officer is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the 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 financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information 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 14, 2025 on our consideration of Bridge City Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 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 Bridge City Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Uzee, Butler, Arceneaux & Bowes

Harvey, Louisiana
May 14, 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2024

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$ 1,682,341
Prepaid insurance	<u>18,679</u>
Total current assets	1,702,020
Property and equipment, net	<u>541,805</u>
Total assets	<u>2,243,825</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable	8,713
Accrued payables:	
Salaries	19,642
Compensated absences	<u>35,043</u>
Total current liabilities	63,398

NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions	<u>2,180,427</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ <u>2,243,825</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statement.

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>
REVENUES:	
Contract Revenue:	
Fire protection	\$ 1,053,600
Fire Insurance premium tax	<u>25,952</u>
Insurance dividend (LWCC)	\$ 1,079,552
Interest Income	34,775
Donations	80,334
Fundraisers	1,500
Reimbursements	7,334
Miscellaneous	<u>54,337</u>
	<u>1,954</u>
Total revenues	<u>1,259,786</u>
EXPENSES:	
Program services - firefighting	1,128,304
Supporting services - management and general	<u>37,345</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,165,649</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	94,137
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS - Beginning of year	<u>2,086,290</u>
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS - End of year	<u>\$ 2,180,427</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Supporting Services</u>	
	<u>Firefighting</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries and wages	\$ 579,450	\$ -	\$ 579,450
Depreciation	54,510	-	54,510
Dues and subscriptions	-	522	522
Fuel	9,219	-	9,219
Insurance:			
General	64,312	-	64,312
Group medical, disability and life	210,419	-	210,419
Worker's compensation	68,353	-	68,353
Membership activities	-	1,704	1,704
Miscellaneous	6,584	4,918	11,502
Office expense	-	8,045	8,045
Payroll taxes	48,123	-	48,123
Pension contributions	17,426	-	17,426
Professional services	-	22,156	22,156
Repairs and maintenance	19,343	-	19,343
Supplies	15,836	-	15,836
Uniforms	7,421	-	7,421
Utilities and telephone	<u>27,308</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,308</u>
Total	\$ 1,128,304	\$ 37,345	\$ 1,165,649

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$ 94,137
Adjustment to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	54,510
Increase in prepaid insurance	(4,861)
Increase in accounts and other accrued payables	<u>16,566</u>
 Net cash provided by operating activities	 \$ 160,352

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Acquisition of property and equipment	(12,163)
 Net cash used by investing activities	 <u>(12,163)</u>
 NET INCREASE IN CASH	 148,189
 CASH - Beginning of year	 <u>1,534,152</u>
 CASH - End of year	 <u>\$1,682,341</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES:

Interest incurred and paid (none capitalized)	\$ <u>-0-</u>
Income tax paid	<u>\$ -0-</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2024

ORGANIZATION

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1 (the Fire Company) was incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana on March 15, 1949 to provide fire protection and related services in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana in an area comprising part of Fire Protection District No. 7 (a separate entity) of Jefferson Parish. The Fire Company has one fire station located in Bridge City, Louisiana and has twelve full-time paid employees and 15 volunteers. The Fire Company's main source of revenue is a fire protection contract with Jefferson Parish which expires December 1, 2027.

A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the Fire Company's significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows:

1. Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation:

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenue are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Net assets, revenues, and expenses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, two classes of net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

- a) *Net assets without donor restrictions* – Net assets available for use in general operations and not subject to donor (or certain grantor) restrictions. Revenue are reported as increases in net assets without restrictions, unless use of the related assets is limited by donor-imposed restrictions. Expenses are reported as decreases in net assets without restrictions.
- b) *Net assets with donor restrictions* – Net assets subject to donor (or certain grantor) imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulated that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

2. Allocation of Expenses:

Expenses, which are easily and directly associated with firefighting or management and general are charged directly to that functional area. Certain other expenses have been allocated to firefighting services and management and general based on time devoted by the Fire Company's staff.

Program services consist of providing firefighting services to the Seventh Fire Protection District of Jefferson Parish.

Management and general consist of general administrative expenses incurred.

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
December 31, 2024

3. Sources of Revenue:

Substantially all of the Fire Company's revenue is derived from funds provided by the Fire Protection District No. 7 of Jefferson Parish to provide firefighting and rescue services to the designated area of the Seventh Fire Protection District and is considered to be an exchange transaction within the scope of ASC Topic 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. The Parish pays the Fire Company monthly installments which represent the net proceeds of millage levied annually on the assessed valuation of property in the Seventh Fire Protection District of Jefferson Parish. The revenue is recognized as the services are performed monthly.

In addition, the Fire Company routinely receives revenues from insurance rebates. The amount is received annually from the State of Louisiana through Jefferson Parish and is based on the number of homes within the fire district.

4. Contributions and Donated Services:

The Fire Company records contributions received as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. Only unrestricted contributions were received in the year ended December 31, 2024, consisting of cash and equipment.

A significant contribution of time is made by unpaid volunteers to accomplish the purpose for which the Fire Company was established. The value of this donated service is not included in the accompanying financial statements because it is not susceptible to objective measurement or evaluation.

All members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation for their services.

5. Income Tax:

The Fire Company is exempt from income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(4) as a nonprofit organization and accordingly no provision for income taxes is made in the financial statements.

6. Cash and Cash Equivalent:

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Fire Company has defined cash and cash equivalents as cash in banks, money market accounts and certificates of deposit with original maturities of three months or less. There were no cash equivalents at December 31, 2024.

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
December 31, 2024

7. Property and Equipment:

Acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$100 and expenditures for repairs, maintenance, renewals, and betterments that materially prolong the useful lives of assets are capitalized. Property and equipment required by purchase are stated at acquisition cost, or estimated historical cost if acquisition cost is not available. Equipment acquired as contributions are recorded at their estimated fair value at the time of acquisition. Property and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Building and Improvements	15-50 years
Equipment	5-20 years

8. Estimates:

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

B. CASH

At December 31, 2024, the aggregate carrying amount of the Fire Company's three bank accounts was \$1,682,341 and the aggregate bank balances were \$1,708,130. All of the fire Company's bank accounts are in one local bank and are covered by federal depositary insurance of \$250,000 and a pledge of securities held by a federal bank which had a market value of approximately \$1,469,642 at December 31, 2024.

C. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

The following is a summary of property and equipment and depreciation activity for the year ended December 31, 2024.

	Balance 1/1/24	Additions	Deletions	Balance 12/31/24
Land	\$ 100,031	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 100,031
Building and Improvements	375,265	-0-	-0-	375,265
Equipment	883,551	12,163	11,616	884,098
Total	\$ 1,358,847	\$ 12,163	\$ 11,616	\$ 1,359,394
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Building and Improvements	210,887	12,584	-0-	223,471
Equipment	563,808	41,926	11,616	594,118
Total	774,695	54,510	11,616	817,589
Net, property and equipment	\$ 584,152	\$ (42,347)	\$ -0-	\$ 541,805

Fire trucks and some other assets which are being used by the Fire Company in its operations are not included in the above summary because they were purchased by Jefferson Parish with bond money and belong to the Parish.

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
December 31, 2024

D. RETIREMENT PLAN

In April 1997, the Fire Company adopted a SIMPLE IRA Retirement Plan for its employees. The plan is a defined contribution salary reduction plan. Under the Plan, the Fire Company matches the employees' salary contributions to the plan up to a limit of 3% of the employees' compensation for the year. The maximum annual contribution by the employee for 2024 was \$14,000 plus an additional catch-up contribution of \$3,000 for those at least age 50. For 2024 the employees' total contributions were \$36,033 and the Fire Company's matched contributions were \$17,426.

E. FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

Substantially all of the Fire company's support is derived from funds provided by Jefferson Parish. Under the contract with Jefferson Parish, the Fire Company receives one-fifth of the net proceeds of the property tax levied annually by Fire Protection District No. 7. The Fire Company also receives from the Parish one-fifth of the 2% fire insurance premium tax which the Parish receives from the State of Louisiana for Fire Protection District No. 7.

F. CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Fire Company's income is derived principally from the proceeds of a property tax and other funding under a contract with Jefferson Parish to support fire protection and related services.

G. SUPPLEMENTAL PAY

The full-time firefighters receive supplemental pay from the State of Louisiana. These payments are made directly to the firefighters and do not pass through the Fire Company and are not included in the Fire Company's financial statements, except for the employer's share of the social security and medicare tax which is borne by the Fire Company.

H. EVALUATION OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Fire Company's management evaluates events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements to determine the accounting for and disclosure of transactions and events that effect the financial statements. Subsequent events have been evaluated through May 14, 2025 which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #1

Bridge City, Louisiana

Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to
Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Agency Head Name: Gary Girard

Purpose

Salary	\$ 99,816
Benefits – Insurance	2,227
Benefits – retirement	2,897
Benefits – other (match deferred comp)	-0-
Car allowance	-0-
Vehicle provided by government	-0-
Per diem	-0-
Reimbursements – cell phones, tolls, car rental	-0-
Travel	-0-
Registration fees	10
Conference travel	-0-
Continuing professional education fees	-0-
Housing	-0-
Unvouchered expenses	-0-
Meals	-0-
	\$ <u>104,940</u>

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE

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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**

To Board of Directors of
Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Bridge City, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1 (a Louisiana nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as December 31, 2024, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 14, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1's internal control over financial reporting 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 Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1'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. During our audit we identified a deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness. Also, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies. The findings are described in the accompanying schedule.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the 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 result 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 organization'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 organization's internal control and compliance.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Directors and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. Under Louisiana revised Statute 25.513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.



Harvey, Louisiana
May 14, 2025

**Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Schedule of Current Year Audit Findings
Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Summary of Auditor's Results

1. Type of audit report issued – Unmodified
2. Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness identified – Yes, 2024-01
Significant deficiencies Identified – Yes, 2024-02, 2024-03
3. Noncompliance material to financial statements – none noted

Financial Statement Findings

2024-01 Segregation of duties:

Condition and Criteria

All financial functions are performed by one employee, the Fire Chief. This employee makes all purchases, prepares the payroll, writes all checks, records cash receipts and disbursements, makes the bank deposits, reconciles the bank accounts and posts the general ledger. To achieve effective internal control, the various duties relating to financial matters described above should be segregated so that no one person is in compete control. Some control is achieved to a limited extent since dual signatures are required on all checks written. This same condition existed in the previous year and was included as a finding in our report for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Cause

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1 is a small organization with a limited number of employees, mostly firefighters. To cure the deficiency in internal control described above would require the employment of additional personnel with the financial ability to perform some of the functions described above. This would not be prudent from a cost effective standpoint.

Recommendation

No corrective action is recommended because the cost benefit does not justify a change.

Management's Response

Management agrees with the auditor's recommendation.

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Schedule of Current Year Audit Findings (continued)
Year Ended December 31, 2024

2024-02 – Year-End Journal Entries

Condition and Criteria

The Fire Company maintains its books on the cash basis of accounting therefore journal entries were required as part of the audit for financial statement misstatements related to accruals and property and equipment accounts. Generally accepted auditing standards now consider year-end adjusting entries prepared by the auditor to be a significant deficiency in internal control.

Cause

Recently issued Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 115 requires that we report the above condition as a control deficiency. The SAS does not provide exceptions to reporting control deficiencies that are mitigated with non-audit services rendered by the auditor or deficiencies for which the remedy would be cost prohibitive or otherwise impractical. The Fire Company has relied on its auditor to identify and correct such financial statement misstatements.

Recommendation

No corrective action is recommended because the cost benefit does not justify a change.

Management's Response

Management agrees with the auditor's recommendations.

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Schedule of Current Year Audit Findings (continued)
Year Ended December 31, 2024

2024-03 – Preparation of Financial Statements

Condition and Criteria

The Fire Company does not have any personnel with the technical ability to prepare its financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. As is common in small organizations, the Fire Company has chosen to engage the auditor to prepare its annual financial statements. This condition is intentional by management, along with the cost effectiveness of acquiring the ability to prepare the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Cause

Recently issued Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 115 requires that we report the above condition as a control deficiency. The SAS does not provide exceptions to reporting deficiencies that are mitigated with non-audit services rendered by the auditor or deficiencies for which the remedy would be cost prohibitive or otherwise impractical.

Recommendation

No corrective action is recommended because the cost benefit does not justify a change.

Management's Response

Management agrees with auditor's recommendation.

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings
Year Ended December 31, 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

2023-01 Segregation of duties:

Condition and Criteria

All financial functions are performed by one employee, the fire Chief. This employee makes all purchases, prepares the payroll, writes all checks, records cash receipts and disbursements, makes the bank deposits, reconciles the bank accounts and posts the general ledger. To achieve effective internal control, the various duties relating to financial matters described above should be segregated so that no one person is in complete control. Some control is achieved to a limited extent since dual signatures are required on all checks written. This same condition existed in the previous year and was included as a finding in our report for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Cause

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1 is a small organization with a limited number of employees, mostly firefighters. To cure the deficiency in internal control described above would require the employment of additional personnel with the financial ability to perform some of the functions described above. This would not be prudent from a cost effective standpoint.

Recommendation

No corrective action is recommended because the cost benefit does not justify a change.

Management's Response

Management agrees with the auditor's recommendation.

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings (continued)
Year Ended December 31, 2024

2023-02 – Year-End Journal Entries

Condition and Criteria

The Fire Company maintains its books on the cash basis of accounting therefore journal entries were required as part of the audit for financial statement misstatements related to accruals and property and equipment accounts. Generally accepted auditing standards now consider year-end adjusting entries prepared by the auditor to be a significant deficiency in internal control.

Cause

Recently issued Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 115 requires that we report the above condition as a control deficiency. The SAS does not provide exceptions to reporting control deficiencies that are mitigated with non-audit services rendered by the auditor or deficiencies for which the remedy would be cost prohibitive or otherwise impractical. The Fire Company has relied on its auditor to identify and correct such financial statement misstatements.

Recommendation

No corrective action is recommended because the cost benefit does not justify a change.

Management's Response

Management agrees with the auditor's recommendations.

Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings (continued)
Year Ended December 31, 2024

2023-03 – Preparation of Financial Statements

Condition and Criteria

The Fire Company does not have any personnel with the technical ability to prepare its financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. As is common in small organizations, the Fire Company has chosen to engage the auditor to prepare its annual financial statements. This condition is intentional by management, along with the cost effectiveness of acquiring the ability to prepare the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Cause

Recently issued Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 115 requires that we report the above condition as a control deficiency. The SAS does not provide exceptions to reporting deficiencies that are mitigated with non-audit services rendered by the auditor or deficiencies for which the remedy would be cost prohibitive or otherwise impractical.

Recommendation

No corrective action is recommended because the cost benefit does not justify a change.

Management's Response

Management agrees with auditor's recommendation.

BRIDGE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

**Independent Accountant's Report
on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures**

Year Ended December 31, 2024

UZEE, BUTLER, ARCENEAUX & BOWES

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Accountant's Report
On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the President and Board of Directors of Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1 and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1's management is responsible for those control and compliance areas identified in the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures.

The Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1 has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Additionally, the Louisiana Legislature Auditor has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
 - i. *Budgeting*, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - ii. *Purchasing*, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - iii. *Disbursements*, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

- iv. *Receipts/Collections*, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
- v. *Payroll/Personnel*, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- vi. *Contracting*, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- vii. *Travel and Expense Reimbursement*, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. *Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)*, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- ix. *Ethics*, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- x. *Debt Service*, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. *Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity*, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- xii. *Prevention of Sexual Harassment*, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

2) Board or Finance Committee

A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the period, and

- i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
- ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, review the minutes from all regularly scheduled board/finance committee meetings held during the year and observe whether the minutes from at least one meeting each month referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternately, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the period.*
- iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

3) Bank Reconciliations

A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:

- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);

- ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
- iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that
 - i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
 - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;
 - iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and
 - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.

D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits, and:

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

Procedures: We obtained a listing of cash collection locations from the Fire Company and management's representation that the list was complete.

The only deposit and collection location for the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1 is their one fire station.

We selected the fire station as the deposit site and collection location for our examination, obtained and inspected written policies and procedures related to employee job duties.

The Fire Company does not collect "cash" per se. Their main collections come from the Parish via ACH deposits. Most charitable donations come in the form of checks. Due to the small size of the Fire Company the employee receiving cash or check, making up the deposits and posting them to the general ledger is the same person, the Fire Chief.

Our review of the Fire Company's insurance policies shows that the employee who handles deposits is bonded.

As we noted previously, there is typically no cash collections during the year. No prenumbered receipts are used. There is no subsidiary ledger in use.

We traced the deposit slip totals to the actual deposit per the bank statement. All deposits were made within one day of collection.

We traced the deposits per the bank statements to the general ledger. All deposits examined were properly recorded and accounted for in the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co. #1's general ledger.

All collection documentation, because of the size of the Fire Company, does not include segregation of duties.

Finding: Yes

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

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

[Note: Findings related to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and

- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
- ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy.
Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

RESULTS: *We obtained a listing of the Fire Company's disbursements from the entity's check register and we obtained management's representation that this listing was complete.*

As mentioned earlier, due to the size of the Fire Company, the Fire Chief, the President and any board members can requisition or initial a purchase. The Fire Chief processes payments and adds vendors to the Fire Company's accounting system.

The Fire Company requires two signatures on each check any board member, the President or the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief is responsible for mailing the checks.

We selected 25 disbursements at random from the above check register and obtained supporting documentation for each transaction. As mentioned earlier, because of the limited number of employees and because of the nature of the types of disbursements made, requisition/purchase orders are not used. However, all disbursements are approved by the Fire Chief who also initiates the purchase.

All disbursements selected for review show approval by the Fire Chief, purchase shows receipt of goods or services purchased and approval for payment by the Fire Chief.

All disbursement documentation, because of the size of the Fire Company, does not include evidence of segregation of duties.

The Fire Company does not use electronic disbursements to make payments on invoices.

Finding: Yes

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards for the period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
 - i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., itemized receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing, (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #6B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

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

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected
 - i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana (doa.la.gov/doa/ost/ppm-49-travel-guide/) or the U. S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);

- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A (vii); and
- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

8) Contracts

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

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
 - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
 - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
 - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain ethics documentation from management, and
 - i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and

- ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the period, as applicable.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

11) Debt Service

- A. Obtain a listing of bond/notes and other debt instruments issued during the period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Procedures: This section is not applicable to the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1.

12) Fraud Notice

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

Perform the following procedures, verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
- B. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
- C. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.
- D. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in Payroll and Personnel procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
- E. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirement are as follows:
 - Hired before June 9, 2020 – completed the training; and
 - Hired on or after June 9, 2020 – completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Procedures: Prior year testing resulted in no exceptions to this section. Therefore, testing is not required in the year ended December 31, 2024.

We were engaged by the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1 to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those control and compliance areas identified in the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Bridge City Volunteer Fire Co., #1 and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

The report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control and compliance areas identified in the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Uzee, Butler, Arceneaux & Bowes

Uzee, Butler, Arceneaux & Bowes
Certified Public Accountants
Harvey, Louisiana

May 14, 2025



May 14, 2025

Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
Management Response

Year Ended December 31, 2024

2) COLLECTIONS

Procedure #5:

5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection that:
 - a) Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawer/registers.
 - b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
 - c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
 - d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.

FINDING

The Fire Chief is responsible for depositing cash in the bank, recording related transactions, recording the transaction and reconciling the related bank accounts.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE

Due to the Fire Company's limited staff it may not be possible to achieve the separation of duties between reconciling verses handling cash collections.

3) NON-PAYROLL DISBURSEMENTS

Procedure #9:

9. For each location under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
 - a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
 - b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
 - c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
 - d) Either the employee responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.

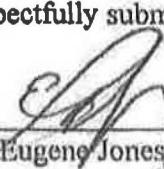
FINDING

The Fire Company does not use a requisition/purchase order system for initiating purchases. All disbursements are initialed and approved for payment by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief processes payments and adds vendors to the Fire Company's accounting system. The Fire Company requires two signatures on each check any board member, the President or the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief is responsible for mailing the checks.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE

Due to the Fire Company's limited staff it is not possible to achieve separation of duties between initiating purchases, processing payments, adding vendors, approval for payments and for signatory authority to the Fire Company's accounting system.

Respectfully submitted,


Mr. Eugene Jones
President


Gary Girard
Fire Chief