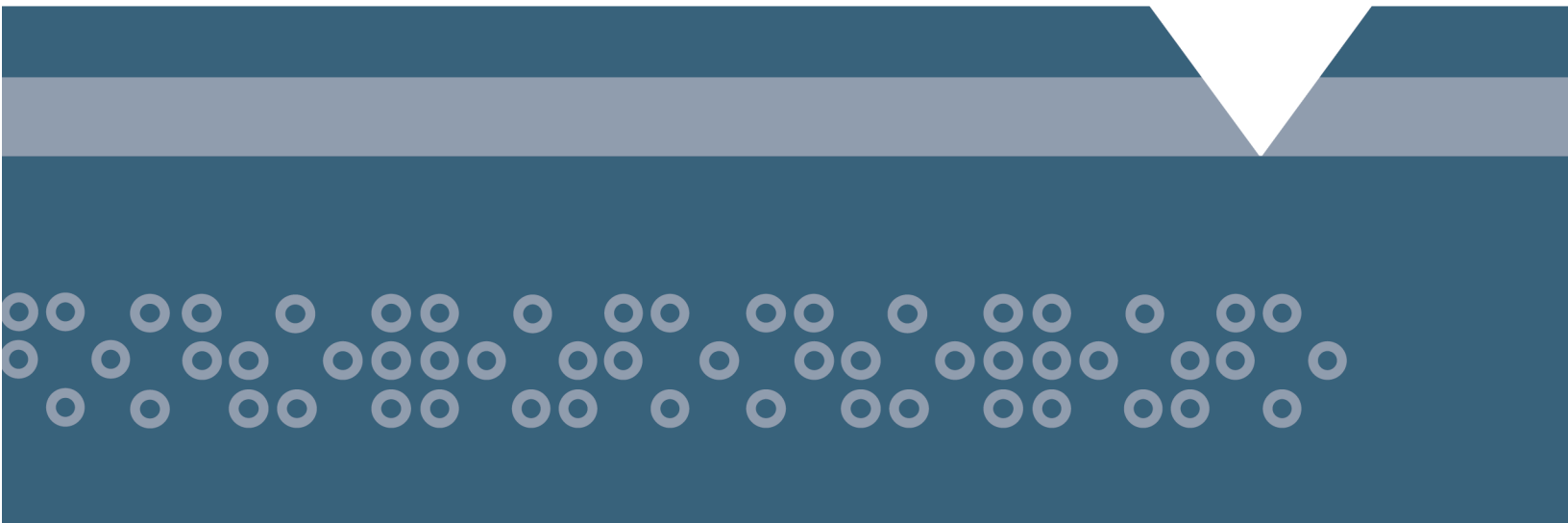


Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish
Downsville, Louisiana

Component Unit Financial Statements
December 31, 2024



WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
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DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
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Board of Commissioners
Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish
Downsville, Louisiana

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish (the District), a component unit of the Union Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of 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.

Accountant's Responsibility

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

We are required to be independent of the Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our review.

Accountant's Conclusion

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison schedule on pages 3 through 5 and pages 18 through 19 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a required part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of the financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Such information is the responsibility of management. We have not audited or reviewed such required supplementary information and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on it.

Supplementary Information

The accompanying schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head on page 20 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The information is the representation of management. We have reviewed the information and, based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the information in order for it to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have not audited the supplementary information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion on such information.

In accordance with the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide* and the provisions of state law, we have issued a report dated September 1, 2026, on the results of our agreed-upon procedures.

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC

Monroe, Louisiana
September 1, 2026

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (PART I)
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

As management of the Ward Five Fire District (the District), we offer readers of the District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the year ended December 31, 2024. Please read it in conjunction with the District's basic financial statements. This discussion and analysis of management is designed to provide an objective and easy-to-read analysis of the District's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, or conditions. It is intended to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances. It is also intended to provide readers with an analysis of the short-term and long-term activities of the District based on information presented in the financial report and fiscal policies that have been adopted by the District. Specifically, this section is designed to assist the readers in focusing on significant financial issues, provide an overview of the District's financial activity, identify changes in the District's financial position (its ability to address the next and subsequent years' challenges), identify any material deviations from the financial plan (the approved budget), and identify individual issues or concerns.

As with other sections of the financial report, the information contained within this discussion and analysis of management should be considered only a part of the greater whole. The readers of this statement should take time to read and evaluate all sections of this report, including the footnotes and supplementary information that are provided in addition to this discussion and analysis of management.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the District's financial statements. The District's basic financial statements are comprised of the following components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements.

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, the District also includes in subsequent sections of this report additional information to supplement the basic financial statements.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Government-wide financial statements are designed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34 to change the way in which government financial statements are presented. It now provides readers with a concise "entity-wide" statement of net position and statement of activities, seeking to give the users of the financial statements a broad overview of the District's financial position and results of operations in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all of the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. The difference between these elements is reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the District is improving or weakening. Evaluation of the overall economic health of the District would extend to other non-financial factors in addition to the financial information provided in this report.

The statement of activities presents information detailing how the District's net position changed. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected fees).

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

The government-wide financial statements report on governmental activities of the District that are principally supported by ad valorem taxes, state revenue sharing, insurance rebate revenues, and investment earnings. Governmental activities include public safety.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A fund is an accountability unit used to maintain control over resources segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District uses funds to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related laws and regulations. Within the basic financial statements, fund financial statements focus on the District's only fund which is considered a major fund.

The District has only one fund type. The governmental fund is reported in the fund financial statements and encompasses essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements.

A reconciliation from both the governmental fund balance sheet and the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance to the government-wide statements is provided to assist in understanding the differences between these two perspectives.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying notes to the financial statements provide additional information essential to a full understanding of the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements begin immediately following the basic financial statements.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The following provides a summary of the net position of the District's governmental activities as of December 31:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current and Other Assets	\$ 934,087	\$ 930,338
Capital Assets	<u>1,246,391</u>	<u>1,219,726</u>
Total Assets	2,180,478	2,150,064
 Other Liabilities	 10,177	 10,387
 Deferred Inflow of Resources	 373,829	 332,233
 Net Position		
Invested in Capital Assets	1,246,391	1,219,726
Unrestricted	<u>550,081</u>	<u>587,718</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,796,472</u>	<u>\$ 1,807,444</u>

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the District's financial position. The District will use the unrestricted net position to meet the ongoing obligations to users of its services and creditors.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The following provides a summary of the District's changes net position for the years ended December 31:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
General Revenues	\$ 365,196	\$ 312,370
Public Safety Expenses	<u>(376,168)</u>	<u>(380,503)</u>
Changes in Net Position	<u>\$ (10,972)</u>	<u>\$ (68,133)</u>

BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

In accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, the District must adopt a budget for the general fund prior to December 31. The original budget was adopted on December 4, 2024.

CAPITAL ASSETS

The District's investment in Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation, for governmental activities as of December 31, 2024, was \$1,246,391. During the year the District had capital outlays of \$209,708.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

Total revenues in the District's proposed budget for the year ended December 31, 2025, were approximately the same as those adopted for the year ended December 31, 2024. Budgeted expenses adopted for the year ended December 31, 2025, were approximately 20% more than those adopted for the year ended December 31, 2024.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's financial picture for all those with an interest in the District's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Ward Five Fire Protection District, 11616 Highway 15, Downsville, Louisiana 71234.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION – GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
DECEMBER 31, 2024

Assets

Cash	\$ 632,361
Property Taxes Receivable	301,726
Capital Assets, Net:	
Land	13,500
Other Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	<u>1,232,891</u>
 Total Assets	 <u><u>\$ 2,180,478</u></u>

Liabilities

Payroll Accruals and Withholdings	\$ 10,177
-----------------------------------	-----------

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Related to Property Taxes	373,829
---------------------------	---------

Net Position

Net Investment in Capital Assets	1,246,391
Unrestricted	<u>550,081</u>
 <u>Total Net Position</u>	 <u><u>\$ 1,796,472</u></u>

See independent accountant's review report and notes to financial statements.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES – GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Expenses:

Current

Public Safety

Contract Labor \$ 15,222

Depreciation 182,952

Insurance 42,202

Lease 5,100

Maintenance and Operations 40,092

Office Supplies 26

Professional Services 15,150

Salaries 18,000

Supplies 20,330

Taxes - Payroll 9,214

Telephone 2,666

Training 17,086

Utilities 8,128

Total Expenses 376,168

General Revenues:

Property Taxes 301,726

Intergovernmental 36,282

Interest 27,188

Total General Revenues 365,196

Change in Net Position (10,972)

Net Position - Beginning 1,807,444

Net Position - Ending \$ 1,796,472

See independent accountant's review report and notes to financial statements.

**WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS – GENERAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 632,361
Property Taxes Receivable	<u>301,726</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 934,087</u>

Liabilities

Payroll Accruals and Withholdings	\$ 10,177
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Deferred Inflows of Resources

Related to Property Taxes	373,829
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Fund Balances

Unassigned	<u>550,081</u>
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Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 934,087</u>
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See independent accountant's review report and notes to financial statements.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET
TO THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2024

Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$ 550,081
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*Amounts reported for governmental activities
in the statement of net position are different
because:*

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds, net of depreciation.	<u>1,246,391</u>
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Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 1,796,472</u></u>
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See independent accountant's review report and notes to financial statements.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUND – GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Revenues

Property Taxes	\$ 301,726
Intergovernmental Revenues	36,282
Use of Money and Property	27,188
Total Revenues	<u>365,196</u>

Expenditures

Current:

Public Safety:

Contract Labor	15,222
Insurance	42,202
Lease	5,100
Maintenance and Operations	40,001
Office Supplies	26
Professional Services	15,150
Salaries	18,000
Supplies	20,330
Taxes - Payroll	9,214
Telephone	2,666
Training	17,086
Utilities	8,128
Capital Outlay	209,708
Total Expenditures	<u>402,833</u>

<u>Net Change in Fund Balances</u>	(37,637)
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<u>Fund Balances - Beginning</u>	<u>587,718</u>
---	----------------

<u>Fund Balances - Ending</u>	<u>\$ 550,081</u>
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**WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, 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**

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$ (37,637)
--	-------------

*Amounts reported for governmental activities
in the statement of activities are different
because:*

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However,
in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over
their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital Outlay	209,708	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(183,043)</u>	<u>26,665</u>

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ (10,972)</u></u>
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See independent accountant's review report and notes to financial statements.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish (the District) was created by Union Parish Police Jury, as authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1492. The District is governed by a five-member board. Two members are appointed by Union Parish Police Jury, two members are appointed by Village of Downsville, and the fifth member, who is chairman, is selected by the other four members. Board members serve two-year terms without compensation. The District is responsible for maintaining and operating fire stations and equipment and providing fire protection within the boundaries of the District.

The District employs one part-time employee.

The District is considered a component unit of Union Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity.

The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information on the Union Parish Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

The more significant of the District's accounting policies are described below:

A. Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements include the statement of net position and the statement of activities. These statements report financial information on all of the activities of the Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish.

The statement of activities reports the expenses of the District's governmental activities by function. The District does not have program revenues; therefore, all revenues are reported as general revenues. General revenues are those revenues that are not associated with a specific function and are available for the general operations of the District.

B. Fund Financial Statements

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds. All individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. The Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish has only one governmental fund.

C. Basis of Accounting, Measurement Focus, and Financial Statement Presentation:

The financial statements of the District are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

The government-wide financial statements report using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH

DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Governmental fund financial statements report using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay current liabilities. The District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.

Property taxes associated with the current fiscal period are considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

D. Fund Type and Major Fund

The District reports the General Fund as a major governmental fund. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District and accounts for all financial resources.

E. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Board of Commissioners adopted the annual budget for the General Fund on December 4, 2024. The annual budget was prepared on a non-GAAP budgetary basis of accounting. The treasurer is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts within and among departments; however, any revisions that alter the total expenditures resulting from revenues exceeding amounts estimated must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. There were no amendments made to the budget and the budgetary comparison schedule, included as supplementary information in the accompanying financial statements, includes the original budgeted amounts. All annual appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.

F. Use of Estimates

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

G. Cash

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits. Under state law, the District may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

H. Receivables

Receivables include property taxes only.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH

DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

I. Uncollectible Allowance

The statements contain no provision for uncollectible accounts. The District's management is of the opinion that such an allowance would be immaterial in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

J. Capital Assets and Depreciation

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, with useful lives of more than one year, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost. The District maintains a threshold level of \$1,500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

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

When capital assets are disposed, the cost and applicable accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts, and the resulting gain or loss is recorded in operations.

As surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings	40 Years
Vehicles	5-15 Years
Equipment	5-20 Years

K. Deferred Inflows/Outflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources when applicable. This separate financial statement element represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an expenditure until then. In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position reports a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as revenue until then. The District's deferred inflows are related to property taxes.

L. Equity Classifications

In the government-wide financial statements, equity is classified as net position and classified further into two components:

1. Net investment in capital assets – consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

2. Unrestricted – consists of all other net assets.

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

1. Non-spendable – amounts that are not in a spendable form (such as inventory) or are required to be maintained intact.
2. Restricted – amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.
3. Committed – amounts 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 of action to remove or change the constraint.
4. Assigned – amounts that the District intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority.
5. Unassigned – amounts that are available for any purpose; positive amounts are reported only in the General Fund.

Note 2 - Cash

As of December 31, 2024, the District had cash in an interest-bearing demand deposit account (book balance) totaling \$632,361. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities. The pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities were held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a hold or custodial bank that was mutually acceptable to both parties.

As of December 31, 2024, the District's collected bank balance of \$634,450 was secured from risk by \$250,000 of federal deposit insurance and \$656,585 of pledged securities held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the District's name.

There were no repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements as of December 31, 2024.

Note 3 - Property Taxes

Property Taxes are levied on a calendar year basis and become due on January 1 of each year. The District is authorized and did levy a maximum tax of 10 mills on property within the boundaries of the District

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH

DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

for maintenance and operations of the District. Total taxes levied for the year ended December 31, 2024, were \$373,829 and as of December 31, 2024, taxes receivable were \$301,726. The authorized millage expires with the year ending 2030.

Note 4 - Capital Assets and Depreciation

Capital assets and depreciation activity as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, for the District is as follows:

	Balance January 1, 2024	Increases	Decreases	Balance December 31, 2024
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 13,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,500
Total Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	13,500	-	-	13,500
Capital Assets Being Depreciated:				
Buildings	282,785	-	-	282,785
Vehicles	1,930,190	-	(40,600)	1,889,590
Equipment	561,284	209,708	(32,511)	738,481
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	2,774,259	209,708	(73,111)	2,910,856
Less Accumulated Depreciation For:				
Buildings	(70,771)	(7,741)	-	(78,512)
Vehicles	(1,134,787)	(110,841)	40,600	(1,205,028)
Equipment	(362,475)	(64,370)	32,420	(394,425)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	(1,568,033)	(182,952)	73,020	(1,677,965)
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net	\$ 1,206,226	\$ 26,756	\$ (91)	\$ 1,232,891

The depreciation expense of \$182,952 is reported separately in the statement of activities.

Note 5 - Lease

The District leases tower and building space located in Downsville, Louisiana from Media Ministries, Inc. under an agreement that commenced November 1, 2022. The lease was renewed upon expiration on November 1, 2024, under the same terms and conditions. Annual lease payments under the agreement are \$3,300.

Note 6 - Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The District carries commercial insurance for all risks of loss. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage in the prior year. Settlements have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

**WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 7 - Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through September 1, 2026, which is the day the financial statements were available to be issued, and it was determined that no significant events had occurred requiring disclosure.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (PART II)

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH

DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GOVERNMENTAL FUND – GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 351,000	\$ 351,000	\$ 301,726	\$ (49,274)
In Lieu of Taxes	1,100	1,100	1,004	(96)
Insurance	19,315	19,315	34,921	15,606
Interest	11,020	11,020	27,188	16,168
Other	2,000	2,000	357	(1,643)
Total Revenues	384,435	384,435	365,196	(19,239)
Expenditures				
Current:				
Public Safety:				
Contract Labor	10,000	10,000	15,222	(5,222)
Insurance	42,000	42,000	42,202	(202)
Lease	5,200	5,200	5,100	100
Maintenance and Operations	48,600	48,600	40,001	8,599
Office Supplies	1,000	1,000	26	974
Professional Services	18,000	18,000	15,150	2,850
Salaries	18,000	18,000	18,000	-
Supplies	49,500	49,500	20,330	29,170
Taxes-Payroll	8,810	8,810	9,214	(404)
Telephone	1,000	1,000	2,666	(1,666)
Training	20,000	20,000	17,086	2,914
Utilities	9,500	9,500	8,128	1,372
Capital Outlay	165,000	165,000	209,708	(44,708)
Total Expenditures	396,610	396,610	402,833	(6,223)
Net Change in Fund Balance	(12,175)	(12,175)	(37,637)	(25,462)
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	587,718	587,718	587,718	111,457
Fund Balance at End of Year	\$ 575,543	\$ 575,543	\$ 550,081	\$ 85,995

See independent accountant's review report.

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Budget Information

The District uses the following budget practices:

A proposed budget for the General fund, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is normally presented to the board each year. The budget is legally adopted by the board amended during the year as necessary. Budgets are established and controlled by the board at the object level of expenditure. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. There was one budget amendment during the year ended December 31, 2024.

The budget comparison statements included in the accompanying financial statements reflect the original proposed budget. Accounting principles applied for purposes of developing data on a budgetary basis and those used to present financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles are the same and no adjustment is necessary to convert the actual GAAP data to the budgetary basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND OTHER
PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Agency Head

Ashley Bailey, Fire Chief

Salary

\$ 18,000

WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

2024-01 Compliance with Annual Filing Deadline

Criteria

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 requires timely filing of annual reports within six months after the end of the fiscal year.

Condition

The District did not timely file its annual reports for the year ending December 31, 2024.

Cause

The District did not file its report for December 31, 2024, within six months of the end of its fiscal year due to inability to prepare.

Effect

The District was not in compliance with state statute.

Recommendation

The District should work with its outside accounting firm to get the financial information ready earlier so that it can be submitted to the Legislative Auditor in a timely manner.

Management's Response

In the future the District will work with its contracted accounting firm to make sure that all financial information is available earlier in the year.

**WARD FIVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF UNION PARISH
DOWNSVILLE, LOUISIANA
STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

2023-01 Compliance with Annual Filing Deadline

Condition

The District did not timely file its annual reports for the year ending December 31, 2023.

Recommendation

The District should work with its outside accounting firm to get the financial information ready earlier so that it can be submitted to the Legislative Auditor in a timely manner.

Current Status

The finding was repeated as finding 2024-01.

2023-02 Noncompliance with Local Government Budget Act

Condition

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the District's General Fund actual revenues had an unfavorable variance of more than 5%.

Recommendation

The District should monitor the budget so that it can be amended as needed.

Current Status

The finding was corrected in 2024.



PREMIER PLAZA
1900 N. 18TH STREET, SUITE 300 | MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201
318.388.3108 (P) | 318.429.2124 (F)

To the Board of Commissioners
Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish
Downsville, Louisiana

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the District's compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the fiscal year ended 12/31/2024, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide. The District's management is responsible for its financial records and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The District has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the District's compliance with the laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the fiscal year ended 12/31/2024. Additionally, the Louisiana Legislative 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:

Public Bid Law

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

The District had no expenditures for materials and supplies exceeding \$60,000 and no expenditures exceeding \$250,000 for public works.

Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees

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

Management provided the requested information.

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

Management provided the requested information.

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

No names appeared on both lists provided in #3 and #2.

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

No names appeared on both lists.

Budgeting

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

Management provided the requested information.

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

Adoption of the budget was evident in the minutes book.

8. Compare the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures to determine if actual revenues failed to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more or if actual expenditures exceed budgeted amounts by 5% or more.

Budget to actual did not exceed 5% or more.

Accounting and Reporting

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

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

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

Meetings

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

Management represented that meeting agendas were posted as required by R.S. 42:11 through 42:28.

Debt

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

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

Advances and Bonuses

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

Scanned board meeting minutes and payroll disbursements and noted no advances or bonuses paid to employees

State Audit Law

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

The District's review report was submitted after the due date.

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

Inquired of management. No applicable contracts were entered into.

Prior-Year Comments

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

Reviewed 2023 Report and noted a finding of noncompliance with the Local Government Budget Act. It was recommended that the District monitor the budget so that it can be amended as needed. HMTV notes that the 12/4/24 meeting minutes shows the adoption of the amended budget and note the variances to actual amounts are under 5%.

We were engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in

Government Auditing Standards, issued by the United States Comptroller General. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the District's compliance with the foregoing matters. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

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

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC

Monroe, LA
September 1, 2026

LOUISIANA ATTESTATION QUESTIONNAIRE
(For Attestation Engagements of Governmental Agencies)

6/19/2026 (Date Transmitted)

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC (CPA Firm Name)

1900 North 18th Street, Suite 300 (CPA Firm Address)

Monroe, LA 71201(City, State Zip)

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

Public Bid Law

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

]

Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

]

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

]

Budgeting

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

]

Accounting and Reporting

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

]

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

]

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

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

Yes []x No [] N/A []

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

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

Yes []x No [] N/A []

Meetings

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

Debt

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

Advances and Bonuses

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

Prior-Year Comments

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

General

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

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

Yes [x] No [] N/A []

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

]

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

]

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

]

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

]

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

]

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

]

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

Donna Crawford Secretary 8-4-26 Date

n/a Treasurer n/a Date

AMB President Chief 8-4-26 Date

Ward Five Fire Protection District of Union Parish