

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2018**



**ERICKSEN KRENTEL**<sup>LLP</sup>  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS • CONSULTANTS

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of the  
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Bayou Gauche, Louisiana

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### ***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.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.



To the Board of Directors of the  
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
June 27, 2019

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### *Opinions*

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as of December 31, 2018, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### *Other Matters*

#### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 4 through 6 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s basic financial statements. The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Act 706 of the 2014 Louisiana Legislative Session and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.



To the Board of Directors of the  
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
June 27, 2019

The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 27, 2019, on our consideration of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

June 27, 2019  
New Orleans, Louisiana

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erickson Krentel" followed by a stylized flourish.

Certified Public Accountants

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**BAYOU GAUCHE, LOUISIANA**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

This section of the Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s (the Fire Department) annual financial report presents management's analysis of the Fire Department's financial performance for the year ended December 31, 2018. This analysis should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements, which follow this section.

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

1. The Fire Department's net position decreased by \$14,162.
2. The general revenues of the Fire Department were \$330,469.
3. The total expenses of the Fire Department were \$316,307.

**OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This report consists of two sections: Management's Discussion and Analysis and audited financial statements. The financial statements also include notes that provide additional detail of the information included in the financial statements.

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements of the Fire Department report information about the Fire Department using accounting methods similar to those used by private companies. These financial statements provide financial information about the activities of the Fire Department.

The Statement of Net Position presents information that includes all of the Fire Department's assets and liabilities with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases and decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Fire Department as a whole is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Activities presents information on how the Fire Department's net position changed as a result of current period operations.

The following presents condensed financial information of the Fire Department.

**SUMMARY OF NET POSITION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017**

	<u>ASSETS</u>	
	<u>December 31,</u> 2018	<u>December 31,</u> 2017
Current assets	\$ 637,262	\$ 643,776
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>689,760</u>	<u>681,304</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,327,022</u>	<u>\$ 1,325,080</u>

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**BAYOU GAUCHE, LOUISIANA**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

LIABILITIES

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2017</u>
Current liabilities	\$ <u>          -</u>	\$ <u>      12,220</u>
Total liabilities	\$ <u>          -</u>	\$ <u>      12,220</u>

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	\$ 689,760	\$ 681,304
Restricted for fire protection	<u>      637,262</u>	<u>      631,556</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 1,327,022</u>	<u>\$ 1,312,860</u>

Total assets increased by \$1,942 primarily due to changes in capital assets.

Total liabilities decreased by \$12,220 due to no outstanding payables.

Total net position increased by \$14,162 (26%) as a result of operations.

SUMMARY OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES  
AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2017</u>
General revenues	\$ 330,469	\$ 308,587
Public safety – fire protection	<u>      (316,307)</u>	<u>      (330,642)</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 14,162</u>	<u>\$ (22,055)</u>
Ending net position	<u>\$ 1,327,022</u>	<u>\$ 1,312,860</u>

The change in net position improved by \$36,217 or 164% excess revenues over expenses.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**BAYOU GAUCHE, LOUISIANA**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**CAPITAL ASSETS**

Following is a schedule of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation:

	December 31, <u>2018</u>	December 31, <u>2017</u>
Land	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000
Construction in progress	60,937	35,485
Buildings and improvements	416,175	416,175
Land improvements	24,863	24,863
Furniture and fixtures	4,470	4,470
Equipment	473,135	400,354
Vehicles	<u>1,383,849</u>	<u>1,370,396</u>
Total	2,387,429	2,275,743
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,697,669)</u>	<u>(1,594,439)</u>
Total capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 689,760</u>	<u>\$ 681,304</u>

The major additions to capital assets during 2018 consisted of equipment and vehicle purchases and construction in progress related to a new station.

**ECONOMIC FACTORS AND A LOOK AT NEXT YEAR**

The Fire Department expects to continue to be funded through sales tax and ad valorem revenues remitted to it by St. Charles Parish. In the fourth quarter of 2018, the ad valorem tax was renewed by the citizens of St. Charles Parish, extending the appropriation through 2030. The Fire Department also applies for grants for assistance in purchasing fire-fighting supplies. The Fire Department's fleet and some of its equipment are aging and the Fire Department expects its costs in maintenance and fire supplies to continue to rise.

The Fire Department is currently building a new storage building and renovating its fire station to increase its ability to respond in emergencies. The Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of emergency response to the citizens of Bayou Gauche.

**CONTACTING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S MANAGEMENT**

This report is designed to provide a general overview of the Fire Department and to demonstrate the Fire Department's accountability for its finances. If you have any questions about this report or need additional information, please contact Mr. Casey Hogan, Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., 410 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Des Allemands, Louisiana 70030.

## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**ASSETS:**

Cash	\$ 602,608
Due from Parish	8,420
Prepaid expenses	26,234
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>689,760</u>
 Total assets	 <u>1,327,022</u>

**LIABILITIES:**

-

**NET POSITION:**

Net investment in capital assets	689,760
Restricted for fire protection	<u>637,262</u>
 Total net position	 <u>\$ 1,327,022</u>

**The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS**

**GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:**

Public safety - fire protection	<u>\$ (316,307)</u>
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**GENERAL REVENUES:**

Sales tax - 1/8 percent	106,697
Ad valorem tax	214,663
Fire insurance rebate	8,532
Other revenues	<u>577</u>

Total general revenues	<u>330,469</u>
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Change in net position	14,162
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Net position - beginning	<u>1,312,860</u>
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Net position - ending	<u><u>\$ 1,327,022</u></u>
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**The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

**ASSETS**

Cash	\$	602,608
Due from Parish		8,420
Prepaid expenses		<u>26,234</u>
 Total assets	 \$	 <u><u>637,262</u></u>

<b><u>LIABILITIES:</u></b>	\$	<u>-</u>
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**FUND BALANCE:**

Nonspendable: prepaid expenses		26,234
Restricted for fire protection		<u>611,028</u>
 Total fund balance		 <u><u>637,262</u></u>
 Total liabilities and fund balance	 \$	 <u><u>637,262</u></u>

**The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET**  
**TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018**

Fund balance - total governmental fund	\$ 637,262
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 governmental funds.	<u>689,760</u>
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 1,327,022</u>

**The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**REVENUES:**

Sales tax - 1/8 percent	\$ 241,509
Ad valorem tax	408,423
Fire insurance rebate	17,846
Other revenues	<u>577</u>
Total revenues	<u>668,355</u>

**EXPENDITURES:**

## Current for fire protection:

## Utilities:

Electricity, water and gas	18,637
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## Equipment:

Maintenance	35,466
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Fuel	6,711
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Insurance	12,805
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## Buildings:

Insurance	23,923
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Maintenance	8,582
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Supplies	2,403
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## Firefighting expenditures:

Fire fighting supplies	60,608
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Fire prevention	2,790
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Insurance	7,606
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Training	4,307
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## Miscellaneous:

Professional services	17,215
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Office expenses	11,595
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Meetings and other	5,250
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Fines and penalties	54
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Dues and subscriptions	<u>7,968</u>
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Total current expenditures	225,920
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Capital outlays	<u>111,686</u>
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Total expenditures	<u>337,606</u>
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Excess of revenue over expenditures	<u>330,749</u>
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**OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:**

Insurance proceeds	<u>12,843</u>
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Total other financing sources	<u>12,843</u>
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Net change in fund balance	343,592
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Fund balance - beginning	<u>293,670</u>
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Fund balance - ending	<u>\$ 637,262</u>
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**The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**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, 2018**

Net change in fund balance - governmental fund	\$	343,592
<p>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:</p>		
<p>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. This is the amount by which depreciation expense of \$103,230 was exceeded by capital outlays of \$111,686 in the current period.</p>		<u>8,456</u>
<p>Property tax revenues in the government-wide Statement of Activities include economic resources that are not reported as revenues in the governmental fund operating statement. This is the amount that deferred inflows of resources in the prior year of \$337,886 exceeded deferred inflows of resources in the current year of \$0.</p>		<u>(337,886)</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities	\$	<u>14,162</u>

**The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement**

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Reporting Entity**

The Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Fire Department) receives funding from local and state government sources and must comply with the concomitant requirements of these funding source entities. However, the Fire Department is a "primary government" and is not included as a component unit of any other St. Charles Parish governmental "reporting entity" as defined in GASB pronouncements, since the entity is a non-profit corporation, and the board members have decision making authority, the power to designate management, the ability to significantly influence operations and primary accountability for fiscal matters. The Fire Department includes all activities that are controlled by it as a quasi-public non-profit corporation organized to provide fire protection to the Parish of St. Charles. The Fire Department has no component units.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Fire Department conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

**Basis of Presentation**

The Fire Department's financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). Governments are also required to follow the pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued through November 30, 1989 (when applicable) that do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Fire Department are discussed below.

The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements-and Management's Discussion and Analysis-for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999, as amended by GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*.

**Basic Financial Statements - Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)**

The Fire Department's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the Fire Department as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Fire Department's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business-type. The Fire Department's fire protection activities and related general administrative services are classified as governmental activities. The Fire Department does not have any business-type activities.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

**(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Basic Financial Statements - Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)**  
**(continued)**

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position (Exhibit A), the governmental activities column is presented on a consolidated basis and is reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and liabilities. The Fire Department's net position is reported in two parts – net investment in capital assets and restricted for fire protection.

The government-wide Statement of Activities (Exhibit B) reports both gross and net cost of the Fire Department's function. The function is supported by general government revenues (primarily 1/8 percent sales tax and ad valorem tax). The Fire Department does not receive related program revenues and operating grants which would reduce gross expenses in the Statement of Activities.

This government-wide focus is on the sustainability of the Fire Department as an entity and the change in the Fire Department's net position resulting from current year's activities.

**Basic Financial Statements – Fund Financial Statements (FFS)**

The financial transactions of the Fire Department are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprises its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures. The Fire Department's current operations require the use of only the following fund type:

**Governmental Fund:**

The focus of the governmental fund's measurement (in the fund statement) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. In general, fund balance represents the accumulated expendable resources, which may be used to finance future operations of the Fire Department.

**General Fund:**

The General Fund is the principal fund of the Fire Department and is used to account for the operations of the Fire Department. General revenues are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

**(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Basis of Accounting**

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

Accrual

The governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Modified Accrual

The governmental fund financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., both measurable and available. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year end. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt, if any, is recognized when due.

The Fire Department records are maintained on the cash basis of accounting. However, the General Fund reported in the accompanying financial statements has been converted to a modified accrual basis of accounting utilizing the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Sales taxes are recorded in the month the taxes are collected by the St. Charles Parish School Board. Sales taxes become payable to the St. Charles Parish School Board on the first day of the month and become delinquent on the 20th day of the month following incurrence of the taxes by businesses.

An ad valorem issue is dedicated to the operations of the nine volunteer fire departments in St. Charles Parish. The tax millage expires in 2030. Each fire department is to receive one ninth of annual collections. Taxes levied in November each year are available for expenditures in the subsequent year.

Interest income on investments is recorded when the investments have matured and income is available. All other revenues are recorded when received.

The majority of the Fire Department's revenues are derived from the one-eighth of one percent sales tax and the ad valorem tax for operations.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

**(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Basis of Accounting (continued)**

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

**Cash**

The Fire Department is authorized under state law to deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, and the laws of the United States. The Fire Department may also invest in time certificates of deposit with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana. Under state law, these deposits must be secured by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of such pledged securities and federal deposit insurance must equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent.

Cash and deposits are categorized into three categories of credit risk.

Category 1 includes deposits covered by federal depository insurance or by collateral held by the Fire Department or its agent in the Fire Department's name.

Category 2 includes deposits covered by collateral held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or its agent in the Fire Department's name.

Category 3 includes deposits covered by collateral held by the pledging financial institution or its trust department or agent but not in the Fire Department's name, and deposits which are uninsured or uncollateralized.

At December 31, 2018, the carrying amount and the bank balances of deposits of the primary government are summarized as follows:

	Bank Balances Category			Bank Balance
	1	2	3	
Cash	\$ 250,000	\$	\$ 384,109	\$ 634,109

**Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

The Fire Department prepares a budget for its General Fund which is approved by its board of directors. Budgets are not, however, legally adopted nor required in the basic financial statement presentation.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

**(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Capital Assets**

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Fire Department maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for recording capital assets. Additions, improvements, and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred.

Capital assets are recorded in the Statement of Net Position and depreciation is recorded in the Statement of Activities. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount or scrapped when declared as no longer needed for public purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Estimated Lives
Equipment	5 - 15 years
Fire protection vehicles	5 - 15 years
Fire stations and other buildings	10 - 40 years

In the fund financial statements, capital assets are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the fund upon acquisition.

**Equity Classifications**

In the government-wide financial statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position - consists of restricted assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. Constraints may be placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Equity Classifications (Continued)**

- c. Unrestricted net position – net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in either of the other two categories of net position.

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. In the governmental fund financial statements, fund balances are classified as follows:

- a. Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in a nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of state, local or federal awards or externally imposed conditions by grantors or creditors.
- c. Committed – amounts that can be used for specific purposes determined by formal action by an ordinance or resolution.
- d. Assigned – amounts that are designated by the formal action of the government's highest level of decision making authority.
- e. Unassigned – amounts not included in other classifications.

The Board of Directors, as the highest level of decision-making authority, can establish, modify or rescind a fund balance commitment. For assigned fund balance, the Board of Directors authorizes management to assign amounts for a specific purpose.

When both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available for use, it is the Fire Department's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted as needed. When committed, assigned or unassigned fund balances are available for use, it is the Fire Department's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned resources and unassigned resources as they are needed.

**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 certain estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

**(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Income Taxes**

The Fire Department is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is exempt from Louisiana income tax under the authority of R.S. 47:121(7). The Fire Department's evaluation as of December 31, 2018 revealed no tax positions that would have a material impact on the financial statements. The 2015 through 2018 tax years remain subject to examination by the IRS. The Fire Department does not believe that any reasonably possible changes will occur within the next twelve months that will have a material impact on the financial statements.

**Date of Management Review**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through June 27, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

**(2) SALES TAX REVENUE**

Effective March 1, 1980, sales tax in the amount of one-eighth of one percent is collected by the St. Charles Parish School Board and administered by the Parish President. The sales tax is to be used for fire protection of the Parish of St. Charles. The funds are distributed monthly by the Parish President to the individual fire departments of the St. Charles Parish Firemen's Association, Inc.

As of December 31, 2018, the sales tax is distributed on the following basis:

	<u>Monthly Basis</u>	<u>Remaining Funds 1/1/18-12/31/18</u>
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	3.78 %
Des Allemands Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	4.10 %
East Side St. Charles Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	22.72 %
Hahnville Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	7.00 %
Killona Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	1.47 %
Luling Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	30.85 %
Norco Area Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	9.81 %
Paradis Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	4.93 %
St. Rose Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	15.34 %

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**(3) DUE FROM PARISH**

Revenue receivable at December 31, 2018 consists of the Fire Department's share of the 1/8th percent sales tax for the month of November 2018, collected on or before December 20, 2018, by the St. Charles Parish School Board and remitted by St. Charles Parish in January 2019.

An allowance for uncollectible receivables is not recorded by the Fire Department because it considers all receivables collectible at December 31, 2018.

**(4) CAPITAL ASSETS**

	<u>Balance</u> 01/01/18	<u>Additions</u> 2018	<u>Retirements</u> 2018	<u>Balance</u> 12/31/18
<b>Capital assets not being depreciated:</b>				
Land	\$ 24,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000
Construction in progress	<u>35,485</u>	<u>25,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,937</u>
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>59,485</u>	<u>25,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,937</u>
<b>Capital assets being depreciated:</b>				
Fire protection vehicles	1,370,396	13,453	-	1,383,849
Equipment	400,354	72,781	-	473,135
Furniture and fixtures	4,470	-	-	4,470
Land improvements	24,863	-	-	24,863
Buildings	<u>416,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>416,175</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>2,216,258</u>	<u>86,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,302,492</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,594,439)</u>	<u>(103,230)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,697,669)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>621,819</u>	<u>(16,996)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>604,823</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ 681,304</u>	<u>\$ 8,456</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 689,760</u>

Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$103,230.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

**(5) RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Fire Department is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; injuries to firemen; and natural disasters. The Fire Department carries commercial insurance in amounts sufficient to insure itself against claims resulting from any of those risks.

**(6) CONSTRUCTION COMMITMENT**

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Fire Department entered into a contract for architectural services related to a renovation project at its fire station. As of the December 31, 2018, \$32,223 was remaining on the contract. The Fire Department expects to sign a construction contract related to this renovation in the near future.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**



**OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**



**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 the Board of Directors of the  
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Des Allemands, Louisiana 70030

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 the governmental activities and each major fund of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 27, 2019.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.



To the Board of Directors of the  
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
June 27, 2019

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 2018-001 and 2018-002.

### **Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s Response to Findings**

Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

June 27, 2019  
New Orleans, Louisiana

  
Certified Public Accountants

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**SECTION I SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS**

1. The Independent Auditor's Report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
2. No significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the 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*.
3. Two instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. were reported in the 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*.
4. A management letter was issued for the year ended December 31, 2018.

**SECTION II FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FINDINGS**

**2018-001 Non-Compliance with Louisiana Law over the Use of Public Vehicles**

Criteria: Article VII, Section 14 of the Louisiana Constitution states that, "Except as otherwise provided by this constitution, the funds, credit, property, or things of value of the state or of any political subdivision shall not be loaned, pledged, or donated to or for any person, association, or corporation, public or private."

Condition: The Chief of the Fire Department has used a Fire Department vehicle for personal use.

Effect: The Fire Department is not in compliance with the Louisiana Constitution.

Cause: The Fire Department did not ensure compliance with this law.

Recommendation: The Fire Department should seek an opinion from legal counsel regarding the legality of the use of the vehicle and ensure that its policies are in line with applicable laws.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management is reviewing the finding and will consult an attorney regarding the use of the vehicle. See Management's Corrective Action Plan for further information.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**2018-002 Non-Compliance with Louisiana Laws Governing Public Funds**

Criteria: Per Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1212, public funds of local depositing authorities should be deposited daily whenever practical.

Condition: During our audit, we noted that the Fire Department often took weeks to deposit sales tax collections and ad valorem checks from St. Charles Parish.

Effect: The Fire Department is not in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1212.

Cause: The Fire Department is comprised of volunteers who are often not able to make deposits timely with the proper segregation of duties.

Recommendation: The Board of Directors should put policies and procedures in place to ensure deposits are made as soon as possible after receipt of public funds. The Board of Directors may wish to consider implementing a direct deposit or utilizing a bank lockbox to become compliant with the law without sacrificing its internal control structure.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding and will implement procedures to become compliant with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1212. See Management's Corrective Action Plan for further information.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**SECTION I – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FINDINGS**

**2017-001 Reporting Requirements to Parish**

It was discovered the Fire Department failed to provide quarterly financial reports to St. Charles Parish, submitting the required reports after the required deadlines.

This issue has been resolved through the Department's use of an outside accountant to assist in preparing and filing reports in a timely manner.

**2017-002 Non-Compliance with Louisiana Law over the Use of Public Vehicles**

It was discovered that the Chief of the Fire Department had used a Fire Department vehicle for personal use, and the Fire Department had no policy regarding personal use of its vehicles.

This issue has not been resolved and is repeated as a finding for 2018 as finding number 2018-001.

**SECTION II – MANAGEMENT LETTER ITEMS**

**2017-003 Credit Card Policy**

It was noted that the Department did not have a written credit card policy governing the documentation of credit card usage and the Treasurer did not document her review of credit card statements.

This issue has been resolved through the Treasurer's review notated on the credit card statements.

**2017-004 Review of Bank Reconciliations**

It was noted that the Fire Department has delegated the function of performing bank reconciliations to an outside accountant. We recommend that the reconciliations be reviewed by management of the Fire Department and that management sign them as evidence of that review.

This issue has not been resolved and is repeated as a management letter item in 2018.

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
**MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2018**

June 27, 2019

Louisiana Legislative Auditor

Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. respectfully submits the following corrective action plan for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Name and address of independent public accounting firm:

Ericksen Krentel LLP  
4227 Canal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119  
Contact: Ronald H. Dawson, Jr.

Audit Period: 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018

The findings from the December 31, 2018 Schedule of Findings and Responses are discussed below. The findings are numbered consistently with the numbers assigned in the Schedule of Findings and Responses.

**SECTION II FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS**

**2018-001 Non-Compliance with Louisiana Law over the Use of Public Vehicles**

**Recommendation:** The Fire Department should seek an opinion from legal counsel regarding the legality of the use of the vehicle and to set policies regarding the use of its vehicles in accordance with any applicable Louisiana laws.

**Response:** Management is reviewing the recommendation and will seek further guidance from an attorney regarding the acceptable use of Fire Department vehicles.

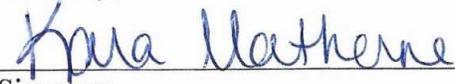
**2018-002 Non-Compliance with Louisiana Laws Governing Public Funds**

**Recommendation:** The Board of Directors should put policies and procedures in place to ensure deposits are made as soon as possible after receipt of public funds. The Board of Directors may wish to consider implementing a direct deposit or utilizing a bank lockbox to become compliant with the law without sacrificing its internal control structure.

**Response:** Management agrees with the finding and will implement procedures to become compliant with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1212. Management will consider alternative cash receipt systems to expedite the process of depositing funds.

If there are any questions regarding this plan, please call Fire Chief Casey Hogan or Kara Matherne Treasurer at (985) 758-7405.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title



## MANAGEMENT LETTER

To the Board of Directors of the  
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Des Allemands, Louisiana

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (the Fire Department), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, we considered the Fire Department's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire Department's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire Department's internal control.

However, during our audit we became aware of certain matters that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiencies. This letter summarizes our comments and suggestions regarding those matters. This letter does not affect our report dated June 27, 2019, on the financial statements of Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed many of these comments and suggestions with various Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss these comments in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations. Our comments are summarized as follows:

### **2018-003 Review of Bank Reconciliations**

We noted that the Fire Department has delegated the function of performing bank reconciliations to an outside accountant. We recommend that the reconciliations be reviewed by management of the Fire Department and that management sign them as evidence of that review.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the board of directors and others within Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., 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 24:513, this letter is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

June 27, 2019  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Certified Public Accountants

Ericksen Krentel LLP

[www.EricksenKrentel.com](http://www.EricksenKrentel.com)

**BAYOU GAUCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS – MANAGEMENT LETTER ITEMS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

June 27, 2019

Louisiana Legislative Auditor

Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. respectfully submits the following corrective action plan for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Name and address of independent public accounting firm:

Ericksen Krentel LLP  
4227 Canal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119  
Contact: Ronald H. Dawson, Jr.

Audit Period: 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018

The comments from the December 31, 2018 management letter are discussed below. The comments are numbered consistently with the numbers assigned in the management letter.

**SECTION III MANAGEMENT LETTER ITEMS**

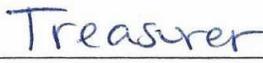
**2018-003 Review of Bank Reconciliations**

**Recommendation:** We recommend that bank reconciliations be reviewed by management of the Fire Department and that management sign them as evidence of that review.

**Response:** The Fire Department agrees with the recommendation and begin to review and approve bank reconciliations.

If there are any questions regarding this plan, please call Fire Chief Casey Hogan or Kara Matherne Treasurer at (985) 758-7405.

Sincerely,

	
_____ Signature	_____ Title