

**NATCHITOCHES PARISH
COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
(a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government)
Natchitoches, Louisiana**

**FINANCIAL REPORT
For the year ended December 31, 2024**

NATCHITOCHES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Table of Contents

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Statement/ Schedule	Page
Independent Auditor's Report		2-4
<u>Required Supplementary Information (Part I):</u>		
Management's Discussion and Analysis		6-9
<u>Basic Financial Statements:</u>		
Governmental Fund Balance Sheet / Statement of Net Position	A	11
Statement of Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance / Statement of Activities	B	12
<u>Notes to the Financial Statements:</u>		
Notes to the Financial Statements		14-20
<u>Required Supplementary Information (Part 2)</u>		
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund	1	22
Notes to the Budgetary Comparison Schedule		23
<u>Supplementary Information:</u>		
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	2	25
Supplementary Information in Accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:9109E		26
<u>Other Reports Required by Government Auditing Standards</u>		
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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>		28-29
Schedule of Findings		30
Schedule of Prior Year Findings		31



Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Deborah D. Dees, CPA/CFF

Maura Dees Gardner, CPA, CFE

122 Jefferson Street

1659 Hwy 171, P.O. Box 328

Mansfield, LA 71052

Stonewall, LA 71078

www.deesgardnercpas.com

(318) 872-3007

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Commissioners of the
Natchitoches Parish Communications District
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District (the District), a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District, as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the budgetary comparison schedule-general fund on pages 6 through 9 and page 22 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer and the Supplementary Information in Accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:9101E are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not required parts of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer and the Supplementary Information in Accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:9101E is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 20, 2025, on our consideration of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and in considering the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Mansfield, Louisiana
June 20, 2025

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (PART I)

NATCHITOCHES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
December 31, 2024

As management of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District, Louisiana, we offer the readers of the Communications District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the Communications District's basic financial statements and supplementary information provided in this report in assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of our stewardship of public resources.

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

Financial Highlights

The Natchitoches Parish Communications District experienced an increase in its net position of \$4,503 (0.08%) during the year ended December 31, 2024, compared to an increase of \$22,216 (0.42%) for year ended December 31, 2023. At December 31, 2024, the assets of the Communications District exceeded its liabilities by \$5,303,597 compared to \$5,299,094 at December 31, 2023.

Communication fees charged decreased \$19,681 to \$557,820 at December 31, 2024, from \$577,501 in December 31, 2023.

The Communications District's total expenses for public safety were \$604,586 during the year ended December 31, 2024, compared to \$591,208 during year ended December 31, 2023. This is an increase of \$13,378 or 2.26% for the current year compared to a increase of \$13,612 (2.36%) for year ended December 31, 2023.

The Communications District's governmental funds report total ending fund balance this year is \$1,994,523, an increase of \$115,282 over the prior year ending fund balance of \$1,879,241.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This Management Discussion and Analysis document introduces the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's basic financial statements. The Communications District's basic financial statements include three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. The basic financial statements include two kinds of financial statements that present different views of the Communications District—the **Government-wide Financial Statements** and the **Governmental Fund Financial Statements**. These financial statements also include the **Notes to the Financial Statements** that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide additional detail. This report also contains additional required supplementary information—a budgetary schedule—in addition to the basic financial statements. These components are described below:

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's finances in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The government-wide financial statements include two statements:

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two 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 Natchitoches Parish Communications District is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of 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.

Governmental Fund financial statements. A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Natchitoches Parish Communications District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. Natchitoches Parish Communications District has one governmental fund.

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

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

Required Supplementary Information. The basic financial statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information. This section includes a budget comparison schedule for the general fund.

Other Supplementary Information. The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer is presented to fulfill the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513(A)(3). There is also supplementary information to comply with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:9109E.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

Net Position

The comparison of net position from year to year serves to measure a government's financial position. As of December 31, 2024, the Communications District's assets exceed its liabilities by \$5,303,597 (net position).

Approximately 62% of the Communications District's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (communications equipment, digital mapping system, furniture and fixtures, a vehicle and the Natchitoches Communication Center); less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Communications District has no debt related to capital assets. These capital assets are not available for future spending. At December 31, 2024, \$3,309,074 of the Communications District's net position reflects capital assets with a historical cost of \$4,580,046 less accumulated depreciation of \$1,270,972.

Unrestricted net position of \$1,994,523 or 33% of total net position as of December 31, 2024, may be used to meet the ongoing obligations to the citizens of Natchitoches Parish Communications District.

Total liabilities for the Communications District increased by \$29,301 from 2024.

The following table provides a summary of the Communications District's net position at:

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 419,084	\$ 747,428
Investments	1,500,659	1,050,179
Accounts receivable	100,620	120,282
Prepaid insurance	3,261	2,900
Utility deposit	200	200
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	3,309,074	3,419,853
TOTAL ASSETS	5,332,898	5,340,842
LIABILITIES		
Accounts and other payables	29,301	41,748
TOTAL LIABILITIES	29,301	41,748
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets	3,309,074	3,419,853
Unrestricted	1,994,523	1,879,241
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 5,303,597	\$ 5,299,094

Changes in net position

Comparative data for government-wide information is presented as it is accumulated and is presented to assist analysis in future years. The following schedule compares revenues and expenses for the current and previous year.

Note that program revenues, which consist of telephone tariff charges, covered 91.58% of the Communications District's operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2024.

The function of the Communications District is public safety. Total expense increased \$13,378 to \$604,586 for year ended December 31, 2024, compared to a \$591,208 in total expenses from the prior year. Of the total costs, depreciation on the equipment and buildings was \$126,667 or 20.95% of total expenses for the year ended December 31, 2024 compared to \$128,546 or 21.74% for the year ended December 31, 2023.

A Summary of the Statement of Activities is as follows:

	For year end December 31, 2024	For year end December 31, 2023
Revenue		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 557,820	\$ 577,501
General revenues		
Interest/Miscellaneous	51,269	35,923
Total revenues	609,089	613,424
Expenses		
Public Safety	604,586	591,208
Total expenses		
Increase (decrease) in net position	4,503	22,216
Net position, beginning of year	5,299,094	5,276,878
Net position, end of year	\$ 5,303,597	\$ 5,299,094

As noted earlier, the Natchitoches Parish Communications District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The focus of the governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of expendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the fiscal year. The budget policy of the Communications District complies with state law, as amended and as set forth in Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 39, Chapter 9, Louisiana Local Government Budget Act (LSA – R.S. 39:1301 et seq.). The Communications District amended the original budget to decrease service revenues, increase interest income and decrease expenses. Actual adjusted revenues were more than budgeted amounts by \$17,190 (2.90%). Actual expenditures were more than budgeted amounts by \$10,547 (2.18%).

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital assets. The Natchitoches Parish Communications District's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2024, totaled \$3,309,074 (net of accumulated depreciation of \$1,270,972). There was an additional computer and 8 station chairs added during the year for \$15,888.

Long-term debt. The Natchitoches Parish Communications District has no debt outstanding.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, the following factors were considered when the budget was prepared:

- Program revenues of charges for services will slightly decline.
- Other expenditures are expected to remain steady with the prior year.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Kim Tolliver, Director, P. O. Box 1411, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71458.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NATCHITOCHES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana

GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET / STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

December 31, 2024

	Governmental Fund Financial Statements		Government-wide Statements
	<u>Balance Sheet</u>		<u>Statement of</u>
ASSETS	General Fund	Adjustments	Net Position
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 419,084	\$ -	\$ 419,084
Investments	1,500,659	-	1,500,659
Accounts receivables	100,620	-	100,620
Prepaid insurance	3,261	-	3,261
Utility deposits	200	-	200
Capital assets (net)	-	3,309,074	3,309,074
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,023,824</u>	<u>3,309,074</u>	<u>5,332,898</u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payables	\$ 25,995	-	25,995
Payroll liabilities payable	3,306	-	3,306
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>29,301</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,301</u>
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION			
Fund Balance:			
Nonspendable:			
Prepaid expense	3,261	(3,261)	-
Unassigned	1,991,262	(1,991,262)	-
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>1,994,523</u>	<u>(1,994,523)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 2,023,824</u>	<u>-</u>	
Net Position:			
Net investment in capital assets		3,309,074	3,309,074
Unrestricted		(1,994,523)	1,994,523
TOTAL NET POSITION		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,303,597</u>

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

Total Fund Balance, Governmental Fund	\$ 1,994,523
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in fund financial statements, but are reported in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position	
Cost of capital assets	\$ 4,580,046
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,270,972)</u>
Total Net Position, Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 5,303,597</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana

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

For the year ended December 31, 2024

	Governmental Fund Financial Statements		Government-wide Statements
	STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE		STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
EXPENDITURES / EXPENSES	General Fund	Adjustments	
Public Safety			
Current General Government	\$ 477,919	\$ -	\$ 477,919
Capital Outlay	15,888	(15,888)	-
Depreciation	-	126,667	126,667
TOTAL EXPENDITURES / EXPENSES	493,807	110,779	604,586
PROGRAM REVENUES			
Charges for services	557,820	-	557,820
TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUES	557,820	-	557,820
NET PROGRAM REVENUES			(46,766)
GENERAL REVENUES			
Interest earnings	51,269	-	51,269
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	51,269	-	51,269
Net change in Fund Balance / Change in Net Position	115,282	(110,779)	4,503
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION			
Beginning of the year	1,879,241		5,299,094
End of the year	\$ 1,994,523	\$	\$ 5,303,597

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

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 115,282
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 of (\$126,667) is more than the capital outlays (\$15,888) in the current period	(110,779)
Change in Net Position	\$ 4,503

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NATCHITOCHES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Natchitoches Parish Communications District (hereinafter referred to as "Communications District") was created on July 20, 1988, by Ordinance Number 112 of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. The Communications District is responsible for maintaining and operating the parish-wide Emergency 911 system and equipment and providing emergency dispatch services to approximately 37,519 residents in Natchitoches Parish. The Communications District is a special-purpose government governed by a nine-member board appointed by the Natchitoches Parish Government Council in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:9103. Board members serve without compensation. The Communications District is staffed by an administrator and an office manager employed by the Natchitoches Parish Government. The Communications District provides dispatch services via inter-governmental agreements with the City of Natchitoches Police Department and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's office.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted (GAAP) in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements. Such accounting and reporting policies also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:513, the industry audit guide, *Audits of State and Local Governments*, and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Natchitoches Parish Communications District are discussed below.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

The accompanying financial statements present the Communications District's funds and activities. As required by GAAP, these financial statements present the Communications District as a component unit of the Parish Government. Based on the criteria listed below, the Parish Government is considered a primary government. A primary government is financially accountable for an organization if (a) it appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and is able to impose its will on the organization or there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the primary government; or (b) total outstanding debt, including leases, is expected to be repaid entirely or almost entirely with resources from the primary government. Based upon these criteria, the Communications District is considered to be a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government and is disclosed as such in the Parish Government's financial statements.

B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The Natchitoches Parish Communications District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

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

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

B. Basis of Presentation (continued)

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

Fund Financial Statements

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

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

C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/ BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Measurement Focus

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

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

Basis of Accounting

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

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING (continued)

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

Revenues. Telephone tariff fees and interest income are recognized in the period in which they are earned.

Expenditures. Purchases of various operating supplies are recorded as expenditures in the accounting period in which they are purchased. Substantially all other expenditures are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred.

D. ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

Cash includes amounts in interest-bearing demand deposits. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the Communications District may deposit funds with a fiscal agent organized under the laws of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or under the laws of the United States. The Communications District may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes and bills, government-backed agency securities, or certificates and time deposits of state banks and organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised Statute R.S. 33:2955. Investments include certificates of deposit with maturities exceeding 90 days at the time of purchase. Investments are carried at cost which approximates market.

Prepaid Expenses

Certain payments made to vendors for services reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid expenses in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

Accounts Receivable

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

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Communications District maintains a threshold level of \$1,500 or more for capitalizing capital assets. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

D. ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (continued)

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings	40 years
Equipment, furniture & fixtures	5-10 years
Vehicles	5 years

Equity Classifications

Net Position

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

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

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

Fund Balances

The Communications District classifies fund balances in governmental funds as follows:

- Nonspendable- Amounts that are not in spendable form (such as prepaid expenses) because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted- Amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors or higher levels of government).
- Committed- Amounts constrained by the Communications District itself. To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Communications District takes the action to remove or change the constraint.
- Assigned- Amounts the Communications District intends to use for a specific purpose.
- Unassigned- All amounts not included in other spendable classifications.

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

D. ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (continued)

The details of the fund balances are included in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet. The Communications District would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by Committed resources, and then Assigned resources, as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend Unassigned resources first to defer the use of these other classified funds.

The General Fund has unassigned fund balance of \$1,991,262 at December 31, 2024. Prepaid items of \$3,261 are considered Nonspendable Fund Balance.

E. USE OF ESTIMATES

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

2. TELEPHONE TARIFF FEES

Per state statute the Communications District collects telephone tariff fees. During the year total tariff fees totaled \$557,820. The following are the principal vendors for the Communications District:

Vendor	Vendor's Revenue	% of Total Telephone Revenue
Alltel Verizon	\$ 161,653	28.98%
New Cingular At&T	158,164	28.35%
Pelican Touch	69,736	12.50%
	<u>\$ 389,553</u>	<u>69.83%</u>

3. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2024, the Communications District has cash and cash equivalents totaling \$419,084 (book balance), in interest-bearing demand deposit accounts. At December 31, 2024, The Communications District has the following investments:

Type of Investment	Fair Value	Investment Maturities (in Years)			
		Less Than 1 year	1 to 5 Years	5 to 10 Years	Over 10 Years
Certificates of Deposit	<u>1,500,659</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,659</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The certificates of deposit are stated at cost, which approximates fair market value.

The cash and investments of the Communications District are subject to the following risks:

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the government will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance, or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

3. CASH AND INVESTMENTS (continued)

Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement of the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Communications District that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the Communications District's name.

At December 31, 2024, the Communications District has \$1,948,188 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits were protected by \$1,776,940 of federal depository insurance; and \$171,248 is pledged by marketable securities held by the custodial bank with a market value of \$1,340,559. Therefore, the Communications District was in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224.

Interest Rate Risk: This is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment has, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. The Communications District does have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Receivables at December 31, 2024 consist of telephone tariff charges of \$100,620.

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

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

Governmental Activities	12/31/2022	Additions	Deletions/ Reclassifications	12/31/2023
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	65,015	-	-	65,015
Total assets not being depreciated	65,015	-	-	65,015
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	132,767	-	-	132,767
NATCOM Facility	3,650,396	-	-	3,650,396
Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	576,468	15,888	-	592,356
Software/Digital Mapping/Addressing	87,060	-	-	87,060
Vehicles	52,452	-	-	52,452
Total assets being depreciated	4,499,143	15,888	-	4,515,031
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	\$ 94,013	\$ 4,538	\$ -	\$ 98,551
NATCOM Facility	455,742	91,261	-	547,003
Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	478,181	25,394	-	503,575
Digital Mapping/Address Assets	87,022	38	-	87,060
Vehicles	29,347	5,436	-	34,783
Total	1,144,305	126,667	-	1,270,972
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 3,419,853	\$ (110,779)	\$ -	\$ 3,309,074

Depreciation expense of \$126,667 was charged to the public safety function.

NATCHITOCHES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

7. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

In September 2014, the Natchitoches Parish Communications District entered into an inter-governmental agreement with the Parish of Natchitoches, whereby the District agrees to reimburse the Parish for payroll services provided, provide road name markers on parish roadways, and develop and provide geographic information system for the parish. The term of the agreement is indefinite, with either party able to terminate on January 1 of any year with 180 days prior notice. In 2024, the District paid \$62,058 for payroll services.

At December 31, 2024, the Natchitoches Parish Communications District was not involved in any litigation nor were they aware of any unasserted claims.

8. COMMISSIONERS PER DIEM

The Commissioners of the Board were not paid per diem for the year ended December 31, 2024.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

FASB 57 requires the disclosure of the description of the relationship, the transactions, the dollar amount of the transactions, and any amounts due to or from that result from related party transactions. Procedures, observations, and inquiries did not disclose any material related party transactions.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has performed an evaluation of the Communications District's activities through June 20, 2025, and has concluded that there were no significant events requiring recognition or disclosure through the date and time these financial statements were available to be issued.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (PART II)

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND

For the year ended December 31, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		Positive (Negative)
Revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 559,755	\$ 541,899	\$ 557,820	15,921
Interest earnings	25,000	50,000	51,269	1,269
Total Revenues	584,755	591,899	609,089	17,190
Expenditures				
Personal services	147,860	145,980	144,583	1,397
Operating services	326,100	319,850	315,742	4,108
Operating supplies	11,500	7,430	7,698	(268)
Travel	10,000	10,000	9,896	104
Capital outlay	-	-	15,888	(15,888)
Total Expenditures	495,460	483,260	493,807	(10,547)
Net change in Fund Balance	89,295	108,639	115,282	6,643
FUND BALANCE				
Beginning of the year	1,879,241	1,879,241	1,879,241	
End of the year	\$ 1,968,536	\$ 1,987,880	\$ 1,994,523	

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana

NOTE TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

December 31, 2024

Budgetary Information

The Communications District is required by state law to adopt an annual budget. The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

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

Once a budget is approved, it can be amended by approval of a majority of the Board. Amendments are presented at a regular open meeting for Board approval. The budget was amended once during the year.

The budget is prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Budgets for most governmental funds are adopted annually on the cash basis of accounting. Adjustments were made to the budget reporting to remove the modified accruals necessary in financial statement reporting. The budget comparison schedules present the original adopted budget and the final amended budget.

Louisiana Revised Statute (LSA-R.S.) 39:1311 states that if there is a five percent or greater shortage in revenue or a five percent or greater overage in expenditures, the governing authority must adopt a budget amendment. For the year ended December 31, 2024, actual revenues were over the adjusted budgeted amounts by \$17,190 or 2.90%. Expenditures were more than appropriations by \$10,547 or 2.18% over the adjusted budget.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

NATCHITOCHES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS
TO AGENCY HEAD OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For the year ended December 31, 2024

Kim Tolliver, Director

Purpose		
Contract	\$	110,000
Benefits-insurance		4,044
Benefits-retirement		21,010
Benefits-other		7,666
Car allowance		-
Vehicle provided by government		-
Per diem		-
Reimbursements		222
Travel		-
Registration fees		
Conference travel		555
Continuing professional education fees		-
Housing		-
Unvouchered expenses		-
Special meals		-

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
d/b/a Natchitoches E911
Natchitoches, Louisiana

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH
LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 33-9109E
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 33:9109E, the Natchitoches Parish Communications District is authorized to collect emergency telephone service charges on wireless communications systems to pay the costs of implementing FCC ordered enhancements. Once these enhancements have been made and the system implementation is complete, the proceeds can be used for any lawful purpose of the Communication District.

As of December 31, 2014, Phase I and Phase II wireless location enhancements were complete. In 2015, the Communications District completed an upgrade to its 9-1-1 call equipment. Time synchronization technology was added to the call handling customer premise equipment during the period 2017. In 2016, the Communications District began construction of a 9,000 sq. ft. emergency communications facility which is designed to house emergency call taking and dispatch operations for all Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement agencies in the parish. Agencies moved into the facility and began operations in July of 2019. In addition, a new processing system was installed in that new facility and went into service at the same time. The Communications District has been actively involved in the development of the Louisiana Statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 Plan, and the District is currently (2021) in the exploratory stages of planning for the upgrading to next generation 9-1-1 technology. This will be a major upgrade in technology offering much expanded system and service capability.

The District's collections of wireless service charges totaled \$382,044 for the year ending December 31, 2024.

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Deborah D. Dees, CPA/CFF

Maura Dees Gardner, CPA, CFE

122 Jefferson Street

1659 Hwy 171, P.O. Box 328

Mansfield, LA 71052

Stonewall, LA 71078

www.deesgardnercpas.com

(318) 872-3007

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 Commissioners of the
Natchitoches Parish Communications District
Natchitoches, Louisiana

We have audited in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental audit Guide*, the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District, a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 20, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Natchitoches Parish Communications District's, financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct

and material effect on the financial statement. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of any 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. Although the intended use of this report may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 21:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 44.6.

Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Mansfield, Louisiana
June 20, 2025

NATCHITOCHES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
Schedule of Findings and Responses
For the Year ended December 31, 2024

SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S REPORTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT:

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated June 20, 2025. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. Our audit of the basic financial statements as of December 31, 2024, resulted in an unmodified opinion.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE MATERIAL AND OTHER MATTERS TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Internal Control

Significant Deficiency
Material Weakness

☐ Yes
☐ Yes

☒ No
☒ No

Compliance

Compliance Material to Financial Statements
Other Matters

☐ Yes
☐ Yes

☒ No
☒ No

FEDERAL AWARDS

Not applicable

MANAGEMENT LETTER

None.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Not applicable

Findings relating to the Financial Statements which are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

FINDINGS RELATED TO INTERNAL CONTROL

None.

FINDINGS RELATED TO COMPLIANCE

None.

NATCHITOCHE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings
For the year ended December 31, 2024

None reported.