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MACTHECHES PARISH
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4

FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 1997

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the auditor, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Boston House office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date: 1/25/98

Washituckan Parish
Fire Protection District No. 8
Financial Report
December 31, 1997

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To the Board of Commissioners of the
Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 6

We have compiled the accompanying component unit financial statements of the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 6, a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, as of December 31, 1987 and the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The financial statements have been prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, which is the generally accepted accounting method established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board for governmental units.

A compilation is limited to presenting, in the form of financial statements, information that is the responsibility of the District's management. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements, and accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham
Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham, CPAs

June 11, 1988

Natchitoches, LA 71407

COMPONENT UNIT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(COMBINED STATEMENTS - OVERVIEW)

Nashville Fire
Fire Protection District No. 4

Combined Balance Sheet
Fund Type and Account Group
December 31, 1997

Assets	Governmental	Account Groups		1997	1996
	Fund Type	General	General	Total	Total
	General	Fund	Long-Term	(Millions of	(Millions of
	Fund	Assets	Debt	Dollars)	Dollars)
Cash	\$ 47,368	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 47,368	\$ 47,779
Property Taxes Receivable	157,654	0	0	157,654	156,983
Prepaid Fire Receivable	58,458	0	0	58,458	58,125
Amounts to be Provided for Retirement of Debt	0	0	49,442	49,442	182,683
Buildings	0	54,655	0	54,655	54,655
Equipment	0	116,264	0	116,264	93,642
Fire Tools	0	887,598	0	887,598	528,696
Total Assets	\$253,484	\$228,654	\$49,442	\$1,021,532	\$1,028,153
Liabilities & Fund Equity:					
Liabilities-					
Accounts Payable	\$ 825	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 825	\$ 382
Accrued Interest	2,385	0	0	2,385	8,475
Notes Payable-G.E. Capital Public Finance, Inc.	0	0	33,860	33,860	49,674
Notes Payable-Municipal Services, Inc.	0	0	0	0	20,823
Notes Payable-Peoples State BA	0	0	3,585	3,585	40,896
Notes Payable-Flagstaff Fire Dept.	0	0	13,028	13,028	6,380
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,695	\$ 0	\$49,442	\$ 52,488	\$ 111,637
Fund Equity-					
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Investment in General Fund Assets	0	778,664	0	778,664	683,918
Fund Balance Reserved for Debt Retirement	280,428	0	0	280,428	253,182
Total Fund Equity	\$280,428	\$778,664	\$ 0	\$1,021,532	\$ 928,398
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	\$284,123	\$778,664	\$49,442	\$1,021,532	\$1,028,157

See notes to financial statements.

Municipalities Period
Fire Protection District No. 6

General Fund
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances-
Budget (GAAP Basis) and Actual
Year Ended December 31, 1997

	Budget	Actual	Variance- Favorable (Adverse)
REVENUES:			
Taxes	\$216,061	\$217,745	\$ 1,584
Intergovernmental	30,690	30,646	(44)
Other	1,880	2,867	1,087
Total Revenues	\$250,211	\$251,258	\$ 1,047
EXPENDITURES:			
General Government-			
Insurance	\$ 31,790	\$ 31,714	\$ 76
Office Expense	4,980	4,682	2,218
Wages & Fringe	32,780	33,084	(1,089)
Telephone & Utilities	4,280	4,226	54
Total General Government	\$ 73,830	\$ 73,686	\$ 1,144
Public Safety-			
Maintenance & Supplies	\$ 12,800	\$ 20,373	\$ (7,573)
Capital Expenditures	87,981	87,780	201
Total Public Safety	\$ 100,781	\$ 108,153	\$ (7,372)
Debt Service-			
Principal Retirement	\$ 81,150	\$ 71,150	\$ 10,000
Interest	4,450	3,251	1,199
Total Debt Service	\$ 85,600	\$ 74,401	\$ 11,199
Total Expenditures	\$249,211	\$256,401	\$ (7,190)
Excess (Deficiency)-of			
Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 2,000	\$ (12,750)	\$ (14,750)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:			
Loan Proceeds	0	20,000	20,000
Excess (Deficiency)-of Revenues over			
Expenditures and Other Financing Sources	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,250	\$ (5,250)
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	250,000	250,000	0
Fund Balance-End of Year	\$252,000	\$257,250	\$ 5,250

See notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Nashitoches Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

INTRODUCTION

The Nashitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 6 was created in June 1982, by ordinance of the Nashitoches Parish Police Jury. The District is charged with providing fire protection for the entire citizens of District No. 6 of Nashitoches Parish. District No. 6 is the largest fire protection District in terms of population within the Parish.

The Board of Directors of the District consists of five members, serving five-year terms and a fire chief with each member appointed by the police jury. The fire chief is elected by the board members who serve without compensation.

I. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation:

The accompanying component unit financial statements of the Nashitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 6 have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

B. Reporting Entity:

As the governing authority of the Parish, for reporting purposes, the Nashitoches Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Nashitoches Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (Police Jury), (b) organizations for which the primary government, if financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Nashitoches Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
 - a. The ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or

Nashelcoches Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

1. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.
2. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because of criteria number one above, the Nashelcoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 6 was determined to be component unit of the Nashelcoches Parish Police Jury, the reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the fund maintained by the District and do not present information on the Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the reporting entity.

C. Fund Accounting:

The District uses funds and account groups to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. On the other hand, an account group is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities that are not recorded in the funds because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources.

Funds of the District are classified as governmental funds. Governmental funds account for the District's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, the acquisition or construction of general fixed assets, and the servicing of general long-term debt. Governmental funds of the District include:

1. General Fund - the general operating fund of the District and accounts for all resources, except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

D. Basis of Accounting:

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. The governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds

Natchitoches Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

present increases and decreases in net current assets. The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by the governmental funds. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets;

Expenditures are generally recognized when the related fund liability is incurred. Purchases of various operating supplies are regarded as expenditures at the time of purchase;

Other Financing Sources (Uses) are transfers between funds that are not expected to be repaid or any other financing sources such as debt proceeds.

E. Budgets:

An annual operating budget is adopted for the General Fund. The District follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Treasurer prepares a proposed budget and submits it to the Board of Commissioners;
2. The Board of Commissioners approves the budget, or amends it as necessary;
3. The approved budget is held open for public inspection;
4. Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each year.

F. Encumbrances:

The District does not employ the use of encumbrance accounting.

G. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and money market accounts. Under state law, the District may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposit, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

Under state law, the District may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates. These are classified as investments if their original maturities exceed 90 days; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. Investments are stated at cost.

Northshore Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

III. Fixed Assets:

Fixed assets are recorded at expenditures at the time purchased or constructed, and the related assets are capitalized in the general fixed asset account group. Public domains or infrastructures are not capitalized. Interest costs, if any, incurred during construction are capitalized. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. All fixed assets are valued at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available.

I. Compensated Absences:

The District does not carry forward or accrue compensated absences.

J. Long-term Obligations:

Long-term obligations expected to be financed from governmental funds are reported in the general long-term obligations account group. Expenditures for principal and interest payments for long-term obligations are recognized in the governmental funds when due.

K. Fund Equity:

Reserves

Reserves represent those portions of fund equity not appropriable for expenditures or legally segregated for a specific future use.

Designated Fund Balances

Designated fund balances represent tentative plans for future use of financial resources.

L. Total Columns on Statements:

The total columns on the statements are captioned Memorandum Only to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position or results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

At December 31, 1997, the District had cash and cash equivalents totaling \$47,160 that was held in checking accounts at a local bank. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits 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

Natchitoches Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

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 bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. At December 31, 1997, the District's cash balance was totally insured by FDIC insurance.

The District's cash is categorized below to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the District at December 31, 1997. Category 1 includes cash held by the District which is insured and held in the District's name. Category 2 would include cash and investments held in the District's name which is uninsured. Category 3 would include cash held by a trustee or other third party not in the District's name and uninsured and unregistered.

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Checking Account	\$42,380	\$0	\$0

3. Ad Valorem Taxes

Ad valorem taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1 of each year. Taxes are levied by the District on June or July and are actually billed to taxpayers in November. Billed taxes become delinquent on January 1 of the following year. Revenues from ad valorem taxes are recognized as revenue when billed. The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's office bills and collects property taxes using the assessed values determined by the Tax Assessor of Natchitoches Parish.

For the year ended December 31, 1997, taxes of 18 mills were levied on property with a taxable value of \$15,785,340. Total taxes levied in 1997 were \$127,654 of which \$125,299 is shown as revenue, after adjustments to the tax rolls.

In addition to property taxes, the residents of Fire District No. 6, of Natchitoches Parish voted on and approved a proposition in 1989 to levy and collect an annual parcel fee of \$15 on each lot on which a structure is located. The purpose of this assessment is to provide funds for acquiring, constructing, and maintaining fire protection facilities and equipment. The parcel fees attach as an enforceable lien and are levied in the same manner as property taxes described above. Billing, collection, and assessment determination are also made in the same manner.

For the year ended December 31, 1997, fees of \$28,450 were levied of which the entire amount is included as revenue for the year.

Windsorlocker Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

4. Changes in General Fixed Assets:

	Balance 12/31/97	1997 Additions	1997 Deletions	Balance 12/31/97
GENERAL FIXED ASSETS:				
Building	\$ 54,638	\$ 0	0	\$ 54,638
Fire Equipment	91,603	24,281	0	116,464
Fire Trucks	138,606	67,500	0	681,538
Totals	\$385,212	\$92,781	0	\$178,662

5. Pending Litigation:

There were no civil or its working damages against the District outstanding at December 31, 1997.

6. Related Party Transactions:

The District had no related party transactions for the year ended December 31, 1997.

7. Compensation Paid to Board Members:

The members of the Board of Commissioners of the District received no compensation during 1997 as members of the governing body.

8. Long-Term Debt:

At December 31, 1997, long-term debt consisted of three outstanding loans secured for the purchase of various fire trucks and equipment. The largest loan, with a balance of \$31,862 related to a loan originated in 1993 with G. E. Capital Public Finance, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000. This note calls for repayment in five equal annual installments on December 31 of each year at a rate of 6.45% with the final installment due on December 30, 1997. The last payment was not made until January 2, 1998.

The second note has a balance of \$10,000 from a loan originated on February 18, 1997 for \$20,000. This amount is owed to Eagleville Fire Department in Storms, Connecticut and is due on February 30, 1998.

The third note has a balance of \$1,585 from the acquisition of a truck on May 8, 1996 for \$20,000. The balance on this note is due in October 1998.

Natchitoches Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

The total accrued interest on the three loans at December 31, 1997 was \$2,184. Debt maturities on the loans for the remaining years are as follows:

	Eagle/8 1/2 Fire Dept.	D.E. Capital	Peoples State Bank	Total
1998	\$18,800	\$21,862	\$5,585	\$46,247

9. Pension Plan

Substantially all employees of Fire Protection District No. 6 of Natchitoches Parish are members of the Louisiana Firefighters Retirement System (System), a multiple-employer (non-sharing), public employee retirement system (PERS), controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees.

Membership in the Louisiana Firefighters Retirement System is mandatory for all full-time firefighters employed by a municipality, parish, or fire protection district that did not enact an ordinance before January 1, 1988, exempting itself from participation in the System. Employees are eligible to retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of creditable service or at or after age 50 with at least 20 years of creditable service. Upon retirement, members are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to three and one-half percent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service, not to exceed 100 percent of their final-average salary. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or jointed months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 (or at or after age 50 with at least 20 years of creditable service at termination) and receive the benefits accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The System annually issues publicly-available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. This report may be obtained by writing to the Firefighters Retirement System, Post Office Box 95093, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, or by calling (504) 825-4060.

Natchitoches Parish
Fire Protection District No. 6

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

Funding Policy. Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 8.8 percent of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 8.8 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and the District are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:185, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The District's contributions to the System for the year ending December 31, 1997 was \$4,979, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham
Registered Public Accountants

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Board of Commissioners of the
Metairie/Coche Parish Fire District No. 4

We have performed the procedures included in the Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide and enumerated below, which were agreed to by the management of the Metairie/Coche Parish Fire Protection District and the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, solely to assist the users in evaluation management's assertions about the Metairie/Coche Parish Fire District No. 4's compliance with certain laws and regulations during the year ended December 31, 1997 included in the accompanying Louisiana Declaration (Declaration). This agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified users of the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

PUBLIC BID LAW

1. Select all expenditures made during the year for materials and supplies exceeding \$5,000, or public works exceeding \$50,000, and determine whether such purchases were made in accordance with LSA-RS 38:2211-2231 (the public bid law).

No expenditures found to be in violation.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

2. Obtain from management a list of the immediate family members of each board member as defined by LSA-RS 42:0181-123 (the code of ethics), and a list of outside business interest of all board members and employees, as well as their immediate families.

Management provided us with the required list including the noted information.

3. Obtain from management a listing of all employees paid during the period under examination.

Management provided us with the required list.

4. Determine whether any of those employees included in the listing obtained from management in agreed-upon procedures (1) were also included on the listing obtained from management in agreed-upon procedures (2) as immediate family members.

No violations found.

BUDGETING

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

Management provided us with a copy of the original budget. There were no amendments to the budget during the year.

6. Trace the budget adoption and amendments to the minute book.

We traced the adoption of the original budget to the minutes of the District. It was adopted by a unanimous decision.

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

We compared the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures. Actual revenues and expenditures for the year did not exceed budgeted amounts by more than 5%.

ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

8. Randomly select 6 disbursements made during the period under examination and:
 - (a) trace payments to supporting documentation as to proper amount and payee;

We examined supporting documentation for each of the six selected disbursements and found that payment was for the proper amount and made to the correct payee.

- (b) determine if payments were properly coded to the correct fund and general ledger account.

Each disbursement appeared to be coded correctly.

- (c) determine whether payments received approval from proper authorities;

Inspection of supporting documentation showed written approval. In addition, non-recurring entries were discussed and approved in the minutes.

MEETINGS

9. Examine evidence indicating that agendas for meetings recorded in the minute book were posted or advertised as required by LSA-RS 42:1 through 42:12 (the open meetings law)

The District is only required to post a notice of each meeting and the accompanying agenda on the door of the district's office building. Management has asserted that such documents were properly posted.

DEBT

10. Examine bank deposits for the period under examination and determine whether any such deposits appear to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds or any other instruments which have not been approved by the State Bond Commission.

We inspected copies of all bank deposits for the period under examination and noted no deposits which appeared to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds or other instruments which had not been approved by the State Bond Commission.

ADVANCES AND BONUSES

11. Examine payroll records and minutes for the year to determine whether any payments have been made to employees which may constitute bonuses, advances, or gifts.

No violations found.

We were not engaged to, and did not, perform an examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on management's assertions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the use of management of the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 6 and the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, and should not be used by those who have not agreed to the procedures and taken responsibility for the sufficiency of the procedures for their purposes. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.


James Thomas & Cunningham, CPAs

June 17, 1998
Natchitoches, Louisiana