

**Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5
Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana**

Financial Statements With Auditor's Report

As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana

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Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Commissioners
Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District, a component unit of the Bienville Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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 major fund of Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District, as of December 31, 2021, 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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 Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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.

Auditors' Responsibilities 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 judgement 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 judgement 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 Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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 Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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 budgetary comparison information on pages 27 – 28, the Schedule of Contributions on page 29, and the Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability on page 30, 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 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.

Management has omitted management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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 the financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

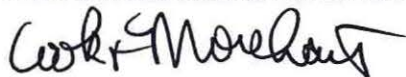
Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's basic financial statements. The accompanying other supplementary information, shown on pages 31 – 32, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the other supplementary information, shown on pages 31 – 32 are 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 21, 2022, on our consideration of Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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 Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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* in considering Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 21, 2022

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2021

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 972,800
Accounts receivable	
Ad Valorem	1,122,959
Transport fees	45,008
Prepaid expenses	17,413
Capital assets	
Depreciable (net)	2,708,056
Non-depreciable	16,650
Total assets	4,882,886
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension related	318,725
LIABILITIES	
Current	
Accounts payable	51,165
Accrued expenses	21,828
Non-current liabilities	
Due within one year	117,769
Due in more than one year	617,856
Total liabilities	808,618
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Unavailable revenue	
Ad valorem taxes	1,152,673
Pension related	430,895
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,583,568
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	2,608,577
Unrestricted	200,848
Total net position	\$ 2,809,425

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
 Ringgold, Louisiana
 Statement of Activities
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Expenses:

General government	\$ 35,063
Public safety - fire protection	1,392,790
Interest on long term debt	6,478
Total expenses	1,434,331

Program revenues:

Charges for services	216,579
Operating grants and contributions	103,807
Capital grants and contributions	7,268
Total program revenues	327,654

Net program expenses	(1,106,677)
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General revenues:

Ad valorem taxes	1,082,740
Intergovernmental	
Fire insurance rebate	15,662
Interest and dividends	22,082
Royalties	8,709
Miscellaneous	15,623
Total general revenues	1,144,816

Change in net position	38,139
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Net position - beginning	2,771,286
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Net position - ending	\$ 2,809,425
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Balance Sheet
Governmental Fund
December 31, 2021

	General Fund
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 972,800
Accounts receivable	
Ad Valorem	1,122,959
Transport fees	45,008
Prepaid assets	7,275
Total assets	\$ 2,148,042
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 51,165
Accrued expenses	21,828
Total liabilities	72,993
Deferred inflows of resources	
Unavailable revenue	
Ad valorem taxes	1,152,673
Emergency medical services billings	17,678
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,170,351
Fund balance	
Nonspendable	7,275
Unassigned	897,423
Total fund balance	904,698
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	2,724,706
The nonallocation method of accounting for prepayments is used in the fund statements, since the prepayment does not provide expendable financial resources.	10,138
Other long-term assets and other amounts are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are not available in the governmental funds.	
Unavailable revenue	17,678
Deferred outflows - pension related	318,725
Long-term liabilities and other amounts are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	
Other	(1,640)
Capital Lease	(116,129)
Net pension liability	(617,856)
Deferred inflows - pension related	(430,895)
Net position of governmental activities	\$ 2,809,425

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	General Fund
Revenues	
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 1,082,740
Charges for services - transport fees	198,901
Intergovernmental	
Fire insurance rebate	15,662
Supplemental pay	54,000
Grant	7,268
Interest and dividends	22,082
Royalties	8,709
Miscellaneous	15,623
Total revenues	1,404,985
Expenditures	
Current:	
General government	35,063
Public Safety	1,086,411
Capital outlay	298,496
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	112,935
Interest and other charges	6,478
Total expenditures	1,539,383
Net change in fund balance	(134,398)
Fund balance at beginning of year	1,039,096
Fund balance at end of year	\$ 904,698

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Net change in fund balance - total governmental fund \$ (134,398)

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

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However,
in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over
their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.
This is the amount by which capital outlay (\$298,496) exceeded
depreciation (\$328,068) in the current period. (29,572)

The nonallocation method of accounting for prepayments is used in the
fund statements, since the prepayment does not provide expendable
financial resources. 623

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial
resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.

Capital Lease payments	112,935
Unavailable revenue	17,678
Non-employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plan	49,807

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require
the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as
expenditures in the funds.

Pension expense	21,066
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Change in net position of governmental activities	\$ 38,139
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District (the District) was created by the Bienville Parish Police Jury, as authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1492, on May 11, 1988. The District is governed by a five member board of which two members are appointed by the police Jury, one each by the Village of Jamestown and the Town of Ringgold, respectively, and one by the other four members of the board. The District is responsible for maintaining and operating fire stations and equipment and providing fire protection within the boundaries of the district.

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's financial statements are prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District are discussed below.

A. Reporting Entity

The District is a component unit of the Bienville Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The police jury is financially accountable for the District because it appoints or ratifies a voting majority of the board and has the ability to impose its will on them.

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

B. Basic Financial Statements – Government-Wide Statements

The Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the funds maintained by the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business-type. The Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's general fund is classified as governmental activities. The Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District does not have any business-type activities.

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, 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 receivables. The Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's net position are reported in two parts – investment in capital assets (net of related debt), and unrestricted net position.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

The government-wide Statement of Activities reports both the gross and net cost of each of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's functions. The functions are supported by general government revenues. The Statement of Activities reduces gross expenses (including depreciation) by any related program revenues, which must be directly associated with the function. The District's program revenues consist of transport fees, non-employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plan, state grants, and other state funds. The net costs (by function) are normally covered by general revenues.

This government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District as an entity and the change in the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's net position resulting from the current year's activities.

C. Basic Financial Statements – Fund Financial Statements

The financial transactions of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District are recorded 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, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures. The various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements.

The following fund types are used by the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District:

Governmental Funds – the focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental fund of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District:

- a. General funds are the general operating funds of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District. They are used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in the governmental category. GASB sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of either fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The District's general fund was determined to be a major fund.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

D. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurements made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

1. Accrual:

The governmental funds 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.

Revenues of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District consist principally of property taxes, other intergovernmental revenues, donations, and interest income. Property taxes are recorded in the year for which the taxes are levied and budgeted. Property taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due on November 15 of each year, and become delinquent on December 31. The taxes are generally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year. The 2021 tax levy is intended to fund the 2022 fiscal year; therefore, the levy has been recorded as a receivable and deferred inflows of resources. Interest income is recorded when earned. Donations and other intergovernmental revenues are recorded when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received.

2. Modified Accrual:

The governmental funds financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under 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 rule is that principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt, if any, is recognized when due. Depreciation is not recognized in the governmental fund financial statements.

E. Budgets

The District uses the following budget practices:

1. A preliminary budget for the ensuing year is prepared by the fire chief prior to December 31 of each year and is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
2. After completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is adopted through passage of a resolution.
3. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

4. The budget is established and controlled by the board of commissioners at the object level of expenditure. All changes in the budget must be approved by the board.
5. The budget is adopted on a cash basis for all funds. The original budget was amended two times during 2021. The amendments are reflected in the budgetary comparisons included in the accompanying financial statements.

F. Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

Cash includes amounts in petty cash, interest-bearing demand deposits, and money market accounts. Cash and cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the district may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or money market accounts with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. Investments are carried at cost, which approximates market.

G. Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$2,500 or more are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are reported at acquisition value as of the date received. 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.

Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings	20 – 40 years
Machinery and equipment	5 – 10 years
Vehicles	5 – 15 years

H. Compensated Absences

Forty hour week employees receive 18 days of vacation between one and four years of service. An additional two days is then earned after every three years of service with a maximum of 30 days at 20 years of service or more.

Twenty-four hour shift employees receive 9 shifts of vacation between one and four years of service. An additional two shifts is then earned after every three years of service with a maximum of 15 shifts at 20 years of service or more.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

Forty hour week employees are allowed to carry over two vacation days to the next year. Twenty-four hour shift employees are allowed to carry over two shifts to the next year. Upon termination of employment, employees are paid for unused vacation time that they are eligible for according to the policy.

Only full time 40 hour week and full time 24 hour shift employees are eligible for sick time. Each classified employee is entitled to 52 weeks of sick leave. Unused sick leave is not paid upon separation of service.

I. Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

J. Deferred Inflows / Outflows of Resources

The District's governmental activities and governmental funds report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element *deferred inflows of resources* represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. On the fund balance sheet, the District reports unavailable revenue from property taxes and other amounts. On the statement of net position, the District reports unavailable revenue from property taxes and pension-related amounts. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available or the period for which they are levied and budgeted.

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has deferred outflows of resources related to pensions reported in the government-wide statement of net position.

K. Net Position

Government-wide net position is divided into two components: Net investment in capital assets consists of the historical cost of capital assets less accumulated depreciation and less any debt that remains outstanding that was used to finance those assets plus deferred outflows of resources less deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. All other net position is reported as unrestricted net position. When an expense is incurred that can be paid using either restricted or unrestricted resources (net position), the district's policy is to first apply the expense toward restricted resources and then toward unrestricted resources.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

L. Fund Balance

In the governmental fund financial statements, fund balances are classified as follows:

1. Nonspendable - amounts that cannot be spent either because they are not in spendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
2. Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes due to constraints placed on the use of resources that are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
3. Committed - amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes as a result of constraints imposed by the board of commissioners (the district's highest level of decision making authority). Committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the board of commissioners remove those constraints by taking the same type of action (i.e. legislation, resolution, ordinance).
4. Assigned - amounts that are constrained by the district's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed.
5. Unassigned - all amounts not included in other spendable classifications

The district's policy is to apply expenditures against restricted fund balance and then to other, less-restrictive classifications – committed and then assigned fund balances before using unassigned fund balances.

The calculation of fund balance amounts begins with the determination of nonspendable fund balances. Then restricted fund balances for specific purposes are determined (not including non-spendable amounts). Then any remaining fund balance amounts for the non-general funds are classified as restricted fund balance. It is possible for the non-general funds to have negative unassigned fund balance when non-spendable amounts plus the restricted fund balances for specific purpose amounts exceeds the positive fund balance for the non-general fund.

M. Pension Plan

The District is a participating employer in a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plans as described in Note 8. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of each of the plans, and additions to/deductions for the plans fiduciary net position, have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
 Ringgold, Louisiana
 Notes to Financial Statements
 December 31, 2021
 (Continued)

(2) Levied Taxes

The following is a summary of authorized and levied ad valorem taxes:

	Authorized Millage	Levied Millage	Expiration Date
General Maintenance	3.73	3.73	2027
Operations and maintenance	5.18	5.18	2031

(3) Cash and Cash Equivalents

At December 31, 2021, the District had cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$972,800, as detailed below.

A. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2021 (book balances) totaled \$972,800. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities 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.

B. Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. As of December 31, 2021, \$735,573 of the District's bank balance of \$985,573 was exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Uninsured and collateral held by the pledging bank's trust department,
not in the District's name:

Cash and Cash equivalents \$ 735,573

(4) Accrued Expenses

Accrued expenses at December 31, 2021 consisted of the following:

Payroll related	\$ 5,443
Retirement payable	<u>16,385</u>
Total	<u>\$ 21,828</u>

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

(5) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2021 was as follows:

	Balance at Jan. 1, 2021	Additions	Deletions	Balance at Dec. 31, 2021
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>				
Capital assets, not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 16,650	\$	\$	\$ 16,650
Total capital assets, not being depreciated, at historical cost	<u>16,650</u>			<u>16,650</u>
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Buildings	1,415,978			1,415,978
Machinery & Equipment	713,338	97,416	(15,683)	795,071
Vehicles	3,996,318	201,080		4,197,398
Total capital assets, being depreciated, at historical cost	<u>6,125,634</u>	<u>298,496</u>	<u>(15,683)</u>	<u>6,408,447</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings	(528,812)	(35,399)		(564,211)
Machinery & Equipment	(524,090)	(58,026)	15,683	(566,433)
Vehicles	(2,335,104)	(234,643)		(2,569,747)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,388,006)</u>	<u>(328,068)</u>	<u>15,683</u>	<u>(3,700,391)</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	<u>9,513,640</u>	<u>(29,572)</u>		<u>2,708,056</u>
Governmental capital assets, net	<u>\$ 9,530,290</u>	<u>\$ (29,572)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 2,724,706</u>

Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2021, was \$328,068.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

(6) Leases

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the District had one operating lease on certain equipment that is utilized by the district. Payments made on this lease for the year ended December 31, 2021, were \$2,041. The minimum annual commitments under noncancelable operating leases are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,

2022		\$	1,800
2023			<u>600</u>
	Total		<u>\$ 2,400</u>

(7) Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2021, was as follows:

	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Due Within</u> <u>One Year</u>
Compensated absences	\$ 1,838	\$	\$(198)	\$ 1,640	\$ 1,640
Capital lease - truck	229,065		(112,936)	116,129	116,129
Net pension liability	<u>1,203,733</u>		<u>(585,877)</u>	<u>617,856</u>	
Total long-term liabilities, governmental activities	<u>\$ 1,434,636</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$(699,011)</u>	<u>\$ 735,625</u>	<u>\$ 117,769</u>

Capital Lease – Fire Truck

During 2015, the District entered into a capital lease agreement to purchase a fire truck. The lease agreement qualifies as a capital lease for accounting purposes. The truck is included in capital assets at a cost of \$748,825, with accumulated depreciation totaling \$295,370 as of December 31, 2021. Interest has been imputed at a rate of 2.792%, and the District will make annual payments through November 2022. A security interest constituting a first lien on the fire truck has been granted to the lessor. The debt service requirements to maturity are as follows:

	<u>Year Ending</u> <u>December 31,</u>
	2022
Total minimum lease payments	<u>119,413</u>
Less amounts representing interest	<u>(3,284)</u>
Present value of minimum lease payments	<u>\$ 116,129</u>

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

(8) Pension Plan

The District participates in the State of Louisiana Firefighters' Retirement System (System), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by Act 434 of 1979 to provide retirement, disability and survivor benefits to firefighters in Louisiana.

PLAN DESCRIPTION

Benefit provisions are authorized within Act 434 of 1979 and amended by LRS 11:2251-11:2272. The following is a brief description of the plan and its benefits and is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

Eligibility Requirements

Any person who becomes an employee as defined in RS 11:2252 on and after January 1, 1980 shall become a member as a condition of employment. Membership in the System consist full-time firefighters, eligible employees of the retirement system, or any person in a position as defined in the municipal fire and police civil service system who earn at least \$375 per month, excluding state supplemental pay, and is employed by a fire department of any municipality, parish, or fire district of the State of Louisiana, except for Orleans Parish and the City of Baton Rouge.

No person who has attained age fifty or over shall become a member of the System, unless the person becomes a member by reason of a merger or unless the System received an application for membership before the applicant attained the age of fifty. No person who has not attained the age of eighteen years shall become a member of the System.

Any person who has retired from service under any retirement system or pension fund maintained basically for public officers and employees of the state, its agencies or political subdivisions, and who is receiving retirement benefits therefrom may become a member of this System, provided the person meets all other requirements for membership. Service credit from the retirement system or pension plan from which the member is retired shall not be used for reciprocal recognition of service with this System, or for any other purpose in order to attain eligibility or increase the amount of service credit in this System.

Retirement Benefits

Employees with 20 or more years of service who have attained age 50, or employees who have 12 years of service who have attained age 55, or 25 years or service at any age are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to 3.333% of their average final compensation based on the 36 consecutive months of highest pay multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100%. Employees may elect to receive their pension benefits in the form of a joint and survivor annuity.

If employees terminate before rendering 12 years of service, they forfeit the right to receive the portion of their accumulated plan benefits attributable to their employer's contributions.

Benefits are payable over the employees' lives in the form of a monthly annuity. A member may elect an unreduced benefit or any of seven options at retirement.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

See R.S. 11:2256(A) for additional details on retirement benefits.

Disability Benefits

A member who acquires a disability, and who files for disability benefits while in service, and who upon medical examination and certification as provided for in Title 11, is found to have a total disability solely as the result of injuries sustained in the performance of his official duties, or for any cause, provided the member has at least five years of creditable service and provided that the disability was incurred while the member was an active contributing member in active service, shall be entitled to disability benefits under the provisions of R.S. 11:2258(B).

Death Benefits

Benefits shall be payable to the surviving eligible spouse or designated beneficiary of a deceased member as specified in R.S. 11:2256(B) and (C).

Deferred Retirement Option Plan

After completing 20 years of creditable service and attaining the age of 50 years, or 25 years at any age, a member may elect to participate in the deferred retirement option plan (DROP) for up to 36 months.

Upon commencement of participation in the deferred retirement option plan, employer and employee contributions to the System cease. The monthly retirement benefit that would have been payable is paid into the deferred retirement option plan account. Upon termination of employment, a participant in the program has several options to receive their DROP benefit. A member may (1) elect to roll over all or a portion of their DROP balance into another eligible qualified plan, (2) receive a lump-sum payment from the account, (3) receive single withdrawals at the discretion of the member, (4) receive monthly or annual withdrawals, or (5) receive an annuity based on the deferred retirement option plan account balance. These withdrawals are in addition to his regular monthly benefit.

If employment is not terminated at the end of the 36 months, the participant resumes regular contributions to the System. No payments may be made from the deferred retirement option plan account until the participant retires.

Initial Benefit Option Plan

Effective June 16, 1999, members eligible to retire and who do not choose to participate in DROP may elect to receive, at the time of retirement, an initial benefit option (IBO) in an amount up to 36 months of benefits, with an actuarial reduction of their future benefits. Such amounts may be withdrawn or remain in the IBO account earning interest at the same rate as the DROP account.

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)

Under the provisions of R.S. 11:246 and 11:2260(A)(7), the board of trustees is authorized to grant retired members and widows of members who have retired an annual cost of living increase of up to 3% of their current benefit, and all retired members and widows who are 65 years of age and older a 2% cost of living increase in their original benefit. In order for the board to grant either one of these increases, the System must meet certain criteria detailed in the statute related to funding status and

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

interest earnings (R.S. 11:243). In lieu of these COLAs, pursuant to R.S. 11:241, the board may also grant an increase based on a formula equal to up to \$1 times the total number of years of credited service accrued at retirement or at death of the member or retiree plus the number of years since retirement or since death of a member or retiree to the system's fiscal year end preceding the payment of the benefit increase. If there are no sufficient funds to fund the benefit at the rate of one dollar per year for such total number of years, then the rate shall be reduced in proportion to the amount of funds that are available to fund the cost-of-living adjustment.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution requirements for employers, non-employer contributing entities, and employees are established and may be amended in accordance with Title 11 and Title 22 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Employer and Employee Contributions

According to State statute, employer contributions are actuarially determined each year. For the year ended June 30, 2021, employer and employee contribution rates for members above the poverty line were 32.25% and 10.00%, respectively. The employer and employee contribution rates for those members below the poverty line were 34.25% and 8.0%, respectively. The District's contributions to the System for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2020, and 2019 were \$145,321, \$130,520, and \$116,221, respectively. Included in contributions for 2021 are contributions for the month of December 2021 in the amount of \$12,640, which were paid in 2022.

Non-employer contributions

According to state statute, the System receives insurance premium tax funds from the state of Louisiana. The tax is considered support from a non-employer contributing entity and appropriated by the legislature each year based on an actuarial study. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenue during the year ended June 30, 2021 and were excluded from pension expense. Non-employer contributions received by the System and attributable to the District during the year ended June 30, 2021 were \$49,807.

PENSION LIABILITIES, PENSION EXPENSE, AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO PENSIONS

At December 31, 2021, the District reported a liability of \$617,856 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2021, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the historical employer contributions. The employer's proportion was determined on a basis that is consistent with the manner in which contributions to the pension plan are determined. The allocation percentages were used in calculating each employer's proportionate share of the pension amounts.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

The allocation method used in determining each employer's proportion was based on the combined contributions to the System during the year ended June 30, 2021 as compared to the total of all combined contributions to the System during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. At June 30, 2021, the District's proportion was .1743460%, which was an increase of .0006860% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2020.

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the District recognized pension expense of \$124,611, plus employer's amortization of change in proportionate share and the difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions, \$(335).

At December 31, 2021, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 8,817	\$ 55,485
Changes of assumptions	133,885	
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments		374,951
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	101,551	459
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	74,472	
Total	\$ 318,725	\$ 430,895

The District reported a total of \$74,472 as deferred outflow of resources related to pension contributions made subsequent to the measurement period of June 30, 2021, which will be recognized as a reduction in net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2022.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expenses as follows:

Year	Amount
2022	\$ (20,567)
2023	(41,275)
2024	(60,868)
2025	(87,250)
2026	13,902
2027	9,416
Total	\$ (186,642)

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
 Ringgold, Louisiana
 Notes to Financial Statements
 December 31, 2021
 (Continued)

ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The net pension liability was measured as the portion of the present value of projected benefit payments to be provided through the pension plan to current active and inactive employees that is attributed to those employees' past periods of service, less the amount of the pension plan's fiduciary net position.

For each year, the actuary determines the reasonable range of the actuarial valuation interest rate, an expected long-term portfolio rate of return and standard deviation based upon the System's target asset allocation and a thirty-year time horizon. These rates were based on an analysis of the System's portfolio along with expected long-term rates of return, standard deviations of return, and correlations between asset classes collected from a number of investment consulting firms in addition to the System's investment consultant, NEPC, L.L.C. Using these values and assuming that future portfolio returns are normally distributed, ten thousand trials of returns over the upcoming thirty years was performed. The results of these trials were organized into percentiles and a reasonable range equal to the 40th through 60th percentiles was set. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, the reasonable range was set at 6.19% through 7.33% and the Board of Trustees elected to set the System's assumed rate of return at 6.90% for Fiscal 2021. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, the reasonable range was set at 5.99% through 7.06% and the Board of Trustees elected to set the System's assumed rate of return at 7.00% for Fiscal 2020. The actuarial valuation interest rates selected by the board, which were within the reasonable range, were 6.90% and 7.00% for fiscal years 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The remaining actuarial assumptions utilized for this report are based on the results of an actuarial experience study completed September 24, 2020, for the period July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019, unless otherwise specified in this report. Additional details are given in the actuary's complete 2020 Experience Reports for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019 which can be obtained from the Fire Fighters' Retirement System website at www.ffret.com under the Finance tab, Actuarial Valuations section. A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of June 30, 2021, are as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal Cost
Estimated Remaining Service Life	7 years, closed period
Investment Rate of Return	6.90% per annum (net of investment expense, including inflation) (decreased from 7.00% in 2020)
Inflation Rate	2.50% per annum
Salary increases	14.10% in the first two years of service and 5.20% with 3 or more years of service; includes inflation and merit increases.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

Cost of Living Adjustments

For the purpose of determining the present value of benefits, COLAs were deemed not to be substantively automatic and only those previously granted were included.

For the June 30, 2021 valuation, assumptions for mortality rates were based on the following:

- For active members, mortality was set equal to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Safety Below-Median Employees.
- For annuitants and beneficiaries, mortality was set equal to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Safety Below-Median Healthy Retirees.
- For disabled retirees, mortality was set equal to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Safety Disabled Retirees.
- In all cases the base table was multiplied by 105% for males and 115% for females, each with full generational projection using the appropriate MP2019 scale.

The long-term expected rate of return is an important input into the actuary's determination of the reasonable range for the discount rate which is used in determining the total pension liability. The actuary's method incorporates information from multiple consultants and investment firms regarding future expected rates of return, variances, and correlation coefficients for each asset class. The change integrates data from multiple sources to produce average values thereby reducing reliance on as single data source.

The June 30, 2021 estimated long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by the System's actuary using the Systems target asset allocation as of January 2021 and the G.S. Curran & Company Consultant Average Study for 2021. The Consultants' Average Study included projected nominal rates of return, standard deviations of returns, and correlations of returns for a list of common asset classes collected from a number of investment consultants and investment management firms. Each consultant's response included nominal expected long term rates of return. In order to arrive at long term expected arithmetic real rates of return, the actuary normalized the data received from the consultant's responses in the following ways. Where nominal returns received were arithmetic, the actuary simply reduced the return assumption by the long term inflation assumption. Where nominal returns were geometric, the actuary converted the return to arithmetic by adjusting for the long term standard deviation and then reduced the assumption by the long term inflation assumption. Using the target asset allocation for the System and the average values for expected real rates of return, standard deviation of returns, and correlation of returns, an arithmetic expected nominal rate of return and standard deviation for the portfolio was determined. Subsequent to the actuary's calculation of the long term expected real rate of return in January 2021, the Board voted to amend the target asset allocation. These changes include an increase to target weight in public equity, a decrease in the target weight in fixed income, and the inclusion of a target weight in private real assets. The changes to the target asset allocation are reflected in the table below. The System's long-term assumed rate of inflation of 2.50% was used in this process for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major class included in the System's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2021, are summarized in the following table:

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rates of Return</u>
Fixed income		
U.S. Core Fixed Income	18.00%	.97%
U.S. TIPS	3.00%	.40%
Emerging Market Debt	5.00%	2.75%
Equity		
U.S. Equity	27.50%	5.86%
Non-U.S. Equity	11.50%	6.44%
Global Equity	10.00%	6.40%
Emerging Market Equity	7.00%	8.64%
Multi-Asset Strategies		
Global Tactical Asset Allocation	0.00%	4.17%
Risky Parity	0.00%	4.17%
Alternatives		
Real Estate	6.00%	5.31%
Real Assets	3.00%	0.00%
Private Equity	9.00%	9.53%
Totals	<u>100%</u>	

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.90%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers and non-employer contributing entities will be made at the actuarially-determined rates approved by the Board of Trustees and by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee taking into consideration the recommendation of the System's actuary. Based on these assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

SENSITIVITY TO CHANGES IN DISCOUNT RATE

The following presents the net pension liability of the participating employers calculated using the discount rate of 6.90%, as well as what the employers' net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower 5.90% or one percentage point higher 7.90% than the current rate as of June 30, 2021.

	<u>Changes in Discount Rate</u>		
	1% Decrease <u>5.90%</u>	Current Discount Rate <u>6.90%</u>	1% Increase <u>7.90%</u>
Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,185,312	\$617,856	\$ 144,605

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

CHANGE IN NET PENSION LIABILITY

The changes in the net pension liability for the year ended June 30, 2021 were recognized in the current reporting period as pension expense except as follows:

Differences between Expected and Actual Experience:

The differences between expected and actual experience with regard to economic or demographic factors in the measurement of the total pension liability were recognized as pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan.

Differences between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings:

The differences between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments were recognized in pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed five-year period.

Changes of Assumptions:

The changes of assumptions about future economic or demographic factors were recognized in pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan.

Change in Proportion:

Changes in the employer's proportionate shares of the collective net pension liability and collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources since the prior measurement date were recognized in employer's pension expense (benefit) using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided pensions through the pension plan.

CONTRIBUTIONS - PROPORTIONATE SHARE

Differences between contributions remitted to the System and the employer's proportionate share are recognized in pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with a pension through the pension plan. The resulting deferred inflow/outflow and amortization is not reflected in the schedule of employer amounts due to differences that could arise between contributions reported by the System and contributions reported by the participating employer.

PLAN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

Plan fiduciary net position is a significant component of the System's collective net pension liability. The System's plan fiduciary net position was determined using the accrual basis of accounting. The System's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses were recorded with the use of estimates and assumptions in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such estimates primarily related to unsettled transactions and events as of the date of the financial statements and estimates over the determination of the fair market value of the System's investments. Accordingly, actual results may differ from estimated amounts. The Plan's fiduciary net position has been determined on the same basis as that used by the plan. Detailed information about the fiduciary net position is available in a stand-alone audit report on their financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2021. Access to these reports can be found on the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's website, www.la.la.gov.

(Continued)

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021
(Continued)

RETIREMENT SYSTEM AUDIT REPORT

Firefighters' Retirement System issued a stand-alone audit report on its financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2021. Access to the audit report can be found on the System's website: www.lafirefightersret.com or on the Office of Louisiana Legislative Auditor's official website: www.lila.la.gov.

(9) Risk Management

The District purchases commercial insurance to provide workers compensation and general liability and property insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverages from the prior year.

(10) On-Behalf Payments

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, qualified employees of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District received supplemental pay from the State of Louisiana. The District has recorded revenues and expenditures for these payments in the General Fund. Revenues under this arrangement totaled \$54,000 for the year ended December 31, 2021.

(11) Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 21, 2022, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

(12) Uncertainty

As a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, economic uncertainties have arisen which are likely to negatively impact financial resources. While the duration on the economic impact is expected to be temporary, there is considerable uncertainty around the duration. The related financial impact and duration cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Budget (Cash Basis) and Actual
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		Positive (Negative)
Revenues				
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 1,093,334	\$ 1,079,082	\$ 1,079,082	\$
Assessments - user fees	250,000	165,424	171,571	6,147
Intergovernmental				
Fire insurance rebate	16,000	15,662	15,662	
State supplemental pay			54,000	54,000
Grant	3,000	7,268	7,268	
Interest income	5,000	5,336	22,082	16,746
Miscellaneous	25,000	44,646	24,332	(20,314)
Total revenues	1,392,334	1,317,418	1,373,997	56,579
Expenditures				
Current:				
Public Safety	1,130,500	1,025,702	1,082,954	(57,252)
Capital outlay	141,834	306,690	298,496	8,194
Debt service				
Principal retirement	120,000	120,000	112,935	7,065
Interest and other charges			6,478	(6,478)
Total expenditures	1,392,334	1,452,392	1,500,863	(48,471)
Excess of revenues over expenditures		(134,974)	(126,866)	8,108
Fund balances at beginning of year	1,169,909	1,084,299	1,085,112	813
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 1,169,909</u>	<u>\$ 949,325</u>	<u>\$ 958,246</u>	<u>\$ 8,921</u>

See accompanying note to required supplementary information.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
 Ringgold, Louisiana
 Notes to Required Supplementary Information
 December 31, 2021

The District's budget is adopted on a cash basis for all funds. There were two amendments to the 2021 budget. Budget comparison statements included in the accompanying financial statements include the original and amended budgets. The schedule below reconciles excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses on the budget basis with GAAP basis:

	<u>General Fund</u>
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses (budget basis)	\$ (126,866)
Adjustments:	
Revenue accruals – net	30,987
Expenditure accruals – net	<u>(38,519)</u>
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses (GAAP basis)	<u>\$ (134,398)</u>

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Schedule of Contributions
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

State of Louisiana Firefighters' Retirement System

Year Ended December 31	Statutorily Required Contribution	Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered-employee payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll
2021	\$ 145,321	\$ 145,321	\$	\$ 440,410	33.00%
2020	130,520	130,520		435,062	30.00%
2019	116,221	116,221		428,435	27.13%
2018	95,193	95,193		359,220	26.50%
2017	90,430	90,430		349,417	25.88%
2016	90,632	90,632		344,722	26.25%

*Amounts presented were determined as of the end of the fiscal year (December 31).

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
 Ringgold, Louisiana
 Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

State of Louisiana Firefighters' Retirement System

Year Ended June 30	Proportion of the net pension liability	Proportionate share of the net pension liability	Covered-employee payroll	Proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2021	0.1743460%	\$ 617,856	\$ 437,309	141.29%	86.78%
2020	0.1736600%	1,203,733	432,346	278.42%	72.61%
2019	0.1718520%	1,076,122	394,313	272.91%	73.96%
2018	0.1489800%	856,945	354,700	241.60%	74.76%
2017	0.1479720%	848,153	347,861	243.82%	73.55%
2016	0.1482800%	969,892	334,340	290.09%	68.16%

*Amounts presented were determined as of the measurement date (fiscal year ended June 30).

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Agency Head: Bobby Conly, Fire Chief

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$ 81,084
State supplemental pay	6,000
Benefits-insurance	6,132
Benefits-retirement	28,738
Reimbursements	274
Travel	383
Dues and registration	275
Miscellaneous reimbursements	224

Bienville Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Schedule of Compensation Paid to Board Members
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Aldermen:

Donna Wiggins - chair	\$	2,750
Randall Bare		550
Briley Joe Carter		300
Donald Moore		600
James Todd		500
		<hr/>
	\$	4,700
		<hr/> <hr/>

COOK & MOREHART

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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*

Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Commissioners
Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 21, 2022.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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 Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection 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 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.

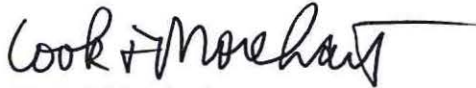
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not 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 Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District'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 financial statements. 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 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.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 21, 2022

Bienville Parish Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Ringgold, Louisiana
Summary Schedule of Audit Findings
December 31, 2021

Summary Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings

There were no findings for the prior year audit for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Summary Schedule of Current Year Audit Findings

There are no findings for the current year audit for the year ended December 31, 2021.

COOK & MOREHART

Certified Public Accountants

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Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the Board of Commissioners
Bienville Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District
Haughton, Louisiana
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The Bienville Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

Bienville Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District (the District) has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledges that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

Written Policies and Procedures

1. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
 - a) ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - b) ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - c) ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
 - d) ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collection for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (including periodic confirmation with outside

parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

- e) **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- g) **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage.
- h) **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statutes (R.S.)42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosures/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- k) **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- l) **Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Management provided written policies and procedures addressing all of the above.

Board or Finance Committee

- 2. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - a) Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.

The Board of Commissioners of the District met on a monthly basis.

- b) For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. Alternately, for those entities reporting on the nonprofit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.

Exception: The minutes of the board of commissioners did not reference and include budget to actual comparisons on the general fund.

Management's Response: The District will implement procedures to have the Board of Commissioners approve their review of the financials in the future meetings.

c) For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

The District did not have a negative unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report.

Bank Reconciliations

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

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete.

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

Bank reconciliations selected included evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date

- b) Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

Bank reconciliations selected included evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation.

- c) Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

There were no reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date.

Collections

4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete.

5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

- a) Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.

- b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.

- c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
- d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing was complete.

Each person responsible for collecting cash does not share cash drawers, was not responsible for preparing/making deposits, unless another employee is responsible for reconciling collection documentation to the deposit, was not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers; and was not responsible for reconciling cash collection to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledger.

- 6. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.

The District has a crime policy which includes coverage for employee theft.

- 7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

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

The District does not write receipts for collections because the District does not have any actual cash collections. For the deposits selected for testing, the deposit slip total was located on the bank statement, and the actual deposit was traced to the general ledger.

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

- 8. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete.

- 9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
- b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
- c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
- d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.

The District's written policies and procedures and employee job duties provide for segregation of duties as noted above, except as noted below:

Exception: The employee responsible for processing payments receives the signed checks back for mailing.

Management's Response: The District will consider having an individual who is not involved in the payment process receive and mail the checks.

10. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and:
 - a) Observe whether the disbursement matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.
 - b) Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete. For the transactions selected for testing, the disbursement matched the related original invoice, included supporting documentation indicating deliverables were received by the District, and included evidence of segregation of duties, except as noted below:

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete. For the transactions selected for testing, the disbursements matched the related original invoice and included evidence of segregation of duties, except as noted below:

Exception: The employee responsible for processing payments receives the signed checks back for mailing.

Management's Response: The District will consider having an individual who is not involved in the payment process receive and mail the checks.

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

11. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards), including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete.

12. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement

for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:

- a) Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder. [Note: Requiring such approval may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality); these instances should not be reported.].

For each card selected for testing, there were attributes indicating that someone other than the authorized card holder reviewed and approved the monthly statements and supporting documentation for the items selected for testing.

- b) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

None of the statements selected for testing contained finance charges and or late fees.

13. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e., each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). For each transaction, observe it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny. For each transaction, report whether the transaction is supported by:

- 1) An original itemized receipt (i.e., identifies precisely what was purchased)

Transactions tested were supported by original itemized receipts.

- 2) Written documentation of the business/public purpose.

Transactions tested were supported with the business purpose documentation

- 3) Documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only).

Transactions tested were supported by documentation of individuals participating in meals.

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

14. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

- a) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).

- b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.

c) Observe each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1h).

d) Observe each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete.

Contracts

15. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:

a) Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.

b) Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).

c) If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, was approval documented).

d) Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

There were no contracts initiated or renewed during the fiscal period for testing.

Payroll and Personnel

16. Obtain a listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees/officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Management provided the requested information, along with management's representation that the listing is complete. For the 5 employees selected for testing, the paid salaries agreed with the authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

17. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees/officials selected under #16 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:

a) Observe that all selected employees/officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).

Daily attendance and leave was documented for the employees selected for testing.

b) Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.

For the transactions selected for testing, supervisors approved the attendance and leave.

- c) Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.

For the transactions selected for testing, leave taken was reflected in the District's cumulative leave records.

- d) Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

For the transactions selected for testing, the rate of pay to the employees agreed to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

- 18. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

The District did not pay out any termination payments during the fiscal period.

- 19. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third party payroll related amounts (e.g. payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Management provided representation that employer and employee portions of third party payroll related amounts, including payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, and workers' compensation premiums, have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Ethics

- 20. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:

- a) Observe whether the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the fiscal period.

The District maintained documentation to demonstrate that required ethics training was completed.

- b) Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

The District did not make any changes to the ethics policy during the fiscal period.

Debt Service

- 21. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued.

The District did not issue any debt during the fiscal period.

- 22. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants,

obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

The District did not have any outstanding debt during the fiscal period.

Fraud Notice

23. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled.

The District's management represented that there were no misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period.

24. Observe the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds

We observed the District has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud waste, or abuse of public funds.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

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

a) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe that such backup occurred within the past week. If backups are stored on a physical medium (e.g., tapes, CDs), observe evidence that backups are encrypted before being transported.

b) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

c) Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

We performed the procedures and discussed the results with management.

Sexual Harassment

26. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year.

Exception: Employees of the District did not obtain the required sexual harassment training.

Management's Response: The District will implement procedures for ensuring that employees obtain sexual harassment training in the future.

27. Observe the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

The District had its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedures posted on the District's premises.

28. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

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

Exception: The District did not complete the required report for the current fiscal period.

Management's Response: The District will complete the required report.

We were engaged by Bienville Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District, to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of Bienville Ward 4 & 5 Fire Protection District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 21, 2022