

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE, COUPEE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE
POINTE COUPEE PARISH POLICE JURY**

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE

Fire/EMS/Rescue Services
6456 La Hwy 1
PO Box 212
Batchelor, Louisiana 70715
(225) 492-3100

GOVERNING BOARD

(Effective January 1, 2023)

Robert Allen, Chairmen
Charles Landry
Larry Harlaux
Marty Frey
Nicholas Victorian

MEETING DATE

First Monday of Every Month

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Commissioners
Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee
Batchelor, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee (hereafter The District), a component unit of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise The District's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major of The District as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's 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 opinion.

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 generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 4 through 9 and 22 through 24 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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise The District's basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to the Agency Head, and the Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures are not a required part of the financial statements, but are supplementary information required by Louisiana State Law.

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 financial statements. We have applied certain limited procedures, which are described in the Independent Accounts' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures. However, we did not audit this information and, accordingly, express no opinion on it.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 30, 2024, on our consideration of The District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of The District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering The District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daigrepoint & Brian APAC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daigrepoint & Brian, APAC
Baton Rouge, LA

June 30, 2024

Other Report Required by Government Auditing Standards	
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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is a required component of financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The MD&A is an analysis of the financial condition and operating results of the District written by management. It introduces the basic financial statements and notes. The MD&A should provide an objective and easily readable analysis of the District's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, or conditions.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
PO Box 212
Batchelor, Louisiana 70715

Introduction

This annual report consists of:

Our independent auditors' report on the financial statements in which they rendered an unqualified opinion.

Management's discussion and analysis which provides in plain language an overview of our financial activities for the year.

The basic financial statements which consist of government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements, and the notes to those financial statements.

The comparison of actual operations for the year compared to the budget.

A schedule of taxable property valuations for the District since inception.

Our independent auditor's report on the District's compliance with laws and regulations and how management applied internal controls over its financial operations. The results of those tests and observations disclosed no instances of noncompliance.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

As management of the Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, we are pleased to provide an overview of our financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2022. The intended purpose of the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is to provide an introduction to the basic financial statements and notes, that provides an objective and easy to read analysis of our financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, and conditions, by providing an easily readable summary of operating results and reasons for changes, which will help to determine if our financial position improved or deteriorated over the past year. This report addresses current operational activities, the sources, uses, and changes in resources, adherence to budget, service levels, limitations of significant economic factors, and the status of infrastructure and its effects on our debt and operation. When referring to prior years data in this analysis we will be drawing upon information from last year's audited financial report.

Financial Highlights

The District's net position decreased by \$277,744 from \$2,145,241 in 2022 to \$1,867,497 in 2023.

Cash increased by \$22,306 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Overview of the Basic Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the District's basic financial statements which are comprised of four components: (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, (3) notes to the financial statements, and (4) other required supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements, presented on pages 11 and 12, are designed to provide readers with broad overview of the District's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

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

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the District's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The District's government-wide financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The District's sole operation of fire protection is classified as governmental activities.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The District has only one fund which is categorized as a governmental fund.

Governmental funds, presented on pages 13 through 15, are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

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

The District adopts an annual appropriated budget. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided for the District's operations to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes, presented on pages 16 through 21, provide additional narrative and tabular information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the District's budgetary control, on pages 23 and 24.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the District's financial position. At the end of the most recent year, the assets of the District exceeded its liabilities by \$1,867,497.

The District's total assets are mainly composed of \$728,312 (23%) in cash, \$483,088 (15%) in receivables, and \$1,932,771 (61%) investment in ROU and capital assets (land, buildings, vehicles and equipment, etc.). The District uses these ROU & capital assets to provide fire protection services to residents and businesses that encompass the area north of the Morganza Spillway Control Structure in the northern part of Point Coupee Parish; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in its ROU & capital assets is reported net of related debt and lease liabilities, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources because the ROU & capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. The remaining balance of unrestricted net assets, \$920,029, may be used to meet the District's future operations.

Net Position

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Assets			
Current and other assets	\$ 1,211,525	\$ 1,364,474	-11%
ROU & Capital assets	1,932,771	1,186,472	63%
Total assets	<u>3,144,296</u>	<u>2,550,946</u>	23%
Liabilities			
Current and other liabilities	291,496	36,090	708%
Debt & lease liabilities	985,303	369,615	167%
Total liabilities	<u>1,276,799</u>	<u>405,705</u>	215%
Net position			
Invested in ROU & capital assets	947,468	816,857	16%
Unrestricted	920,029	1,328,384	-31%
Total net position	<u>\$ 1,867,497</u>	<u>\$ 2,145,241</u>	-13%

The District's total revenues decreased by 18% from \$955,355 in 2022 to \$779,522 in 2023 primarily as a result of a decrease in the amount of ad valorem taxes received in 2023. Total expenses increased by 16% from \$913,327 in 2022 to \$1,057,264 in 2023. This increase was attributable to a variety of changes in economic conditions during the current fiscal year.

Changes in Net Position

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ 735,282	\$ 915,631	-20%
Intergovernmental revenues	22,145	24,282	-9%
Other revenues	22,093	15,442	43%
Total revenues	<u>779,520</u>	<u>955,355</u>	-18%
Expenses			
Operating	803,563	706,517	14%
Depreciation & amortization	253,701	206,810	23%
Total expenses	<u>1,057,264</u>	<u>913,327</u>	16%
Change in net position	<u>\$ (277,744)</u>	<u>\$ 42,028</u>	<u>-761%</u>

Governmental Fund Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, the District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

The focus of the District's governmental fund is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of resources that are available for spending. Such information is useful in assessing the District's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

As a measure of the District's liquidity, it may be useful to compare fund balance to total expenditures. Fund balance represents 114% of total fund operating expenditures.

The fund balance of the District decreased by \$277,742 during the current year.

Budgetary Highlights

The District's annual budget is the legally adopted expenditure control document of the District. A budgetary comparison statement is required and can be found on pages 23 and 24. This statement compares the original adopted budget, the budget if amended throughout the year, and the actual expenditures prepared on a budgetary basis.

Actual revenues of \$779,520 were less than budgeted revenues of \$832,951 by \$53,431 while actual expenditures of \$1,187,875 were less than budgetary expenditures of \$1,160,393 by \$27,482.

Capital Assets

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the District had \$1,932,771 and \$1,186,492, respectively, invested in a broad range of ROU & capital assets, including buildings, vehicles, and equipment. Further detail on ROU & capital assets is presented in Notes 11 and 5 on pages 21 and 20, respectively.

Long-Term Debt

During 2014 the District entered into certificates of indebtedness in the amount of \$1,084,390 for the purposes of acquiring new fire protection vehicles and paying off existing capital lease obligations and construction loans. At the end of the year, the amount owed on the certificates of indebtedness was \$300,220.

Further information on the certificates of indebtedness is presented in Notes 6 and 7 on pages 20 and 21.

During 2023 the District entered into a lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the purposes of acquiring two new fire trucks. At the end of the year, the amount owed on the lease liability was \$685,083.

Further information on the lease liabilities is presented in Note 11 on page 21.

Economic Factors and Next Year’s Budget

The District serves a population estimated at approximately 16,000 utilizing both contract and volunteer firefighters. Through the efforts of these firefighters the District has attained an IRC In Rating of 5 and a IRC Out Rating of 5, which means that insurance rates for the taxpayers in the District were lowered due mainly to acquisitions and improvements to equipment and the efforts of the volunteer firemen.

The recap below of assessed property valued by year from 2003 to 2023 which shows that the District has shown some economic progress during that time frame with a significant pull back during 2023.

Year	Mills Levied	Assessed Value	Homestead Exemption	Tax to be Paid by Owner	Tax to be Paid by State	Total Tax
2002	5.54	12,275,127	2,629,291	68,005	14,567	82,571
2003	5.54	11,551,127	2,648,426	63,994	14,673	78,666
2004	5.54	17,479,615	2,724,770	96,837	15,095	111,933
2005	6.53	14,687,740	2,770,480	95,912	18,091	114,003
2006	6.53	16,292,585	2,771,040	106,391	18,095	124,487
2007	6.53	15,719,728	2,846,410	102,651	18,587	121,238
2008	6.46	19,145,611	3,000,940	123,681	19,386	143,067
2009	6.46	20,425,840	3,050,580	131,951	19,707	151,658
2010	6.46	29,034,860	3,055,230	187,565	19,737	207,302
2011	6.5	29,113,230	3,062,600	189,241	19,910	209,151
2012	6.5	30,941,644	3,067,236	201,126	19,940	221,066
2013	6.5	34,090,384	3,094,636	221,593	20,118	241,711
2014	6.5	39,023,944	3,048,586	253,661	19,819	273,480
2015	6.5	70,291,154	3,058,556	456,898	19,884	476,782
2016	6.5	92,562,186	3,386,364	601,660	22,014	623,675
2017	6.5	85,479,782	3,427,438	555,619	22,278	577,897
2018	6.5	96,270,622	3,398,918	625,759	22,093	647,852
2019	6.5	84,540,024	3,447,246	549,510	22,407	571,917
2020	6.5	137,745,702	3,466,338	895,347	22,531	917,878
2021	6.5	100,763,082	3,491,368	654,960	22,694	677,654
2022	6.5	97,774,192	3,489,148	635,532	22,679	658,211
2023	11.5	39,887,552	3,504,698	458,707	40,304	499,011

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District’s finances for all those with an interest in the District’s finances. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Robert Allen, Chairman for the Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana at (225) 492-3100.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The government-wide financial statements, presented on pages 11 Statement of Net Position and 12 Statement of Activities, are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The Statement of Net Position includes capital assets and long-term debt and the Statement of Activities includes depreciation as an expense of operations.

The governmental funds, presented on pages 13 Balance Sheet and 14 and 15 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance, are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements except that the Balance Sheet does not report capital assets or long-term debt and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance includes capital acquisitions, annual debt service, and excludes depreciation.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 728,312
Receivables	
Ad valorem taxes	440,740
Sales taxes	42,348
Total current assets	1,211,400
Capital Assets, net of Accumulated Depreciation:	
Land	30,000
Buildings	743,130
Vehicles	55,636
Firefighting equipment and tools	204,005
Total Capital Assets (net)	1,032,771
Other Assets	
Deposits	125
Financing right of use asset, net	900,000
Total Other Assets	900,125
Total Assets	\$ 3,144,296
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accrued interest payable	\$ 22,377
Downpayment on financing lease	250,000
Credit cards	1,459
Amount due to retirement system	17,660
Long-term liabilities due in less than one year	
Financing lease liability, current portion	66,641
Certificates of indebtedness	71,581
Total Current Liabilities	429,718
Due in more than one year	
Financing lease liability, net of current	618,442
Certificates of indebtedness, net of current	228,639
Total Liabilities	1,276,799
NET POSITION	
Invested in capital assets and ROUs, net of related debt	947,468
Unrestricted	920,029
Total Net Position	1,867,497
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$ 3,144,296

See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	Expenses	Charges for Services	Program Revenues		Net Governmental Activities
			Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
Governmental Activities:					
Public safety	\$ 1,009,367	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,009,367)
Interest on long-term debt	47,897	-	-	-	(47,897)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 1,057,264	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,057,264)
General Revenues:					
Taxes:					
Property tax, levied for fire protection					
					\$ 458,707
Sales					
					276,575
General intergovernmental revenues					
					22,145
Miscellaneous revenues					
					22,093
Total General Revenues					
					779,520
Change in Net Position					
					(277,744)
Net Position at Beginning of Year					
					2,145,241
Net Position at End of Year					
					\$ 1,867,497

See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	General Fund
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 728,312
Receivables	
Ad valorem	440,740
Sales tax	42,348
Deposits	125
Total Assets	\$ 1,211,525
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	
Liabilities	
Accrued interest payable	\$ 22,377
Downpayment on financing lease	250,000
Accounts payable	1,459
Amount due to retirement system	17,660
Total Liabilities	291,496
Fund Balances:	
Unassigned	920,029
Total Fund Balances	920,029
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 1,211,525

Reconciliation of the Statement of Net Position of Governmental Funds to the Balance Sheet:

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:	
Total fund balance per balance sheet	\$ 920,029
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	1,032,771
Long-term liabilities, including certificates of indebtedness are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(300,220)
Long-term liabilities, including financing lease liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(685,083)
Net position of governmental activities	\$ 967,497

See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	<u>General Fund</u>
Revenues	
Taxes	
Ad valorem	\$ 458,707
Sales	276,575
Intergovernmental revenues	22,145
Other revenue	22,093
Total Revenues	779,520
Expenditures	
Current operations	
Emergency fees	10,652
Equipment maintenance	18,297
Insurance	54,925
Legal and professional	53,228
Miscellaneous	9,924
Payroll taxes and benefits	59,041
Salaries	418,342
Supplies and protective gear	15,533
Tax collector fees	17,660
Training and fire prevention	3,777
Utilities	20,889
Vehicle expense	73,398
Capital outlays	
Financing right-of-use assets	1,000,000
Debt service	
Principal retirement - debt	69,395
Acquisition of financing lease liability	(685,083)
Interest expense	47,897
Total Expenditures	1,187,875
Excess of revenue over expenditures	(408,355)
Net change in fund balance	(408,355)
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	1,328,384
Fund Balance, End of Year	\$ 920,029

See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CONTINUED)
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities:

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

Net change in fund balance - total governmental funds	\$ (408,355)
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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 outlays exceeded the depreciation expense in the current period.

Capital outlay	1,000,000
Depreciation and amortization expense	<u>(253,701)</u>
	746,299

The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position.

Principal payment on debt	69,395
Acquisition of financing lease liability	<u>(685,083)</u>
	(615,688)

Change in net position of governmental activities	<u><u>\$ (277,744)</u></u>
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See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 1 - INTRODUCTION

On July 14, 1981, the Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana was created by a resolution of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury under authority of Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1491. The District operates under a commission form of government and provides fire protection services to all the territory situated within historical Wards 1, 2, and 3 of Pointe Coupee Parish. In accordance with LRS 40:1494, the District is managed by a board of five commissioners appointed by the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury. The Chairman is elected by these commissioners. These five commissioners accept no compensation although per diem is allowed.

Effective October 1, 2022 ordinance LSA-RS 40:1504 was passed which transitioned the oversight responsibility from each of the five individual fire districts to a single governing board. All districts continue to provide fire protection services within their respective districts and operate individually from one another.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying general purpose financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Reporting Entity

The District is a political body and a corporate and political subdivision of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information on the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury or the general government services provided by that governmental unit. No component units were identified for inclusion in the District's financial statements.

Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

The District's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting on the district as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the district's major funds). Both of these statements are designed to categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type activities. All activities for the District are classified as governmental.

The government-wide financial statements include the statement of net position and the statement of activities. These statements are presented on the full accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Ad valorem tax revenues are recognized in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements have been met.

The government wide statement of activities shows the amount by which the direct expenses of a functional category (Public Safety) are offset by program revenues.

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

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds of the District are classified as governmental funds. Governmental funds account for the District's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, the acquisition or construction of general fixed assets, and the servicing of general long term debt. Governmental funds of the District include:

General Fund – The general operating fund of the district and accounts for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

Government fund level financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Tax revenues are considered to be available when they are collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenue to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Grant revenues availability period is generally considered to be one year. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when the liability has matured and payment is due.

Cash

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

Cash deposits are reported at carrying amount which reasonably estimates fair value.

Capital Assets and Depreciation

The District's property and equipment with useful lives of more than one year are stated at historical cost and comprehensively reported in the government-wide financial statements. The District generally capitalizes assets with cost of \$500 or more as purchase and construction outlays occur. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the asset value or materially extend useful lives are not capitalized. Uniforms and protective gear which are susceptible to excessive wear and tear and fire code regulations are expensed when incurred.

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

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives, in years, for depreciable assets as follows:

Buildings	10-40 Years
Vehicles	5-20 Years
Firefighting equipment and tools	5 Years
Furniture, fixtures, and office equipment	3 Years

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Equity Classifications

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in two components:

Investment in capital assets, net of related debt – Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.

Unrestricted net position – All other net position that do not meet the definition of “restricted” or “invested in capital assets, net of related debt”.

Budgetary Information

The policy and practice of the District is for the Fire Chief to submit an annual budget for the General Fund to the Board for approval and adoption.

The General Fund's appropriated budget is prepared on a detailed line item basis. Revenues are budgeted by source and expenditures are budgeted by function. The legal level of control is by function within the General Fund. Expenditures may not exceed appropriations at this level. The General Fund budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis. The budget and actual financial statement is reported on this basis. Unencumbered appropriations for annually budgeted funds lapse at fiscal year end.

Long-Term Obligations

Expenditures for principal and interest payments are recognized in the governmental funds when due.

Property Taxes

The Sheriff of Pointe Coupee Parish, as provided by State Law, is the official tax collector of general property taxes levied by the Parish. By agreement, the Sheriff receives a commission of approximately 3.9%.

Property taxes are levied and notices are mailed out in mid November of the year. All taxes are due by December 31 of the year and are delinquent on January 1 of the next year, which is also the lien date.

State Law requires the Sheriff to collect property taxes in the calendar year in which the assessment is made. If taxes are not paid by the due date of December 31, the taxes bear interest at one and one-fourth percent (1.25%) per month until the taxes are paid. After notice is given to the delinquent taxpayers, the Sheriff is required by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana to sell the least quantity of property necessary to settle the taxes and interest owed.

Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied and become due. The majority of the year's taxes are usually collected by the Sheriff in November and December of the year they are levied and remitted to the District in December of the year they are levied and the January following the year they are levied. Any amounts not collected at December 31 are shown as accounts receivable.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, taxes of \$458,707 were levied on property with assessed valuations totaling \$39,887,552 at the rate of 11.5 mills. Taxes are levied for the purpose of purchasing, maintenance, and operation of the District's fire protection facilities, vehicles, and equipment.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Sales Tax

On April 2, 2005, the voters of Pointe Coupee Parish approved the levy and collection of a 1/4 percent sales and use tax dedicated to the purpose of providing for fire protection throughout the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, by assisting the five existing fire protection districts within said Parish to pay operating, maintenance and capital improvement costs within the respective corporate limits of each of said Districts to be shared equally. Sales tax revenues are collected by the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury and are generally remitted to the District on a monthly basis. Sales tax revenue is recognized as revenues for the month reported and collected by the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury.

During fiscal year 2022 the District entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Parish of Pointe Coupee (the Parish), Capital Area Finance Authority, and Ventress Solar Farm 1, LLC. The CEA is related to the construction of a solar panel farm in New Roads, Louisiana. Under this CEA the Parish receives predetermined payments from Ventress Solar Farm 1, LLC. The Parish then shares these payments with other governmental agencies within the Parish's authority, including the fire districts and school board. The amount received is expected to increase for the first three years and then reduce until expiration in fiscal year 2042. In exchange for these predetermined payments, Ventress Solar Farm 1, LLC is able to make purchases tax free related to the solar farm construction.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 3 – CASH

At December 31, 2023, the status of deposited funds and collateralized balances are as follows:

Noninterest-bearing demand deposits-unrestricted	\$ 757,466
Secured by unlimited federal deposit insurance	757,466
Unsecured/uncollateralized	\$ -

Cash is 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. The fiscal agent bank for the District participates in the FDIC's Transactions Account Guarantee program. This program provides depositors with unlimited coverage for noninterest-bearing transaction accounts at participating FDIC-insured institutions.

NOTE 4 - LAND LEASE

On September 15, 2014 the District signed a 99 year lease for land owned by the Port Commission. The purpose of the lease is to build substation to have the ability to house fire and protection equipment in the Lettsworth area. Payments under this lease are forgiven in lieu of providing fire protection services.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 5 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Amounts invested and changes in capital assets for governmental activities are as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>2023</u>
Capital Assets				
Land	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Buildings	1,116,119	-	-	1,116,119
Vehicles	1,198,189	-	-	1,198,189
Firefighting equipment and tools	855,066	-	-	855,066
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	30,128	-	-	30,128
Total Capital Assets	<u>3,229,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,229,502</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation				
Buildings	342,870	30,119	-	372,989
Vehicles	1,102,643	39,910	-	1,142,553
Firefighting equipment and tools	570,869	81,640	-	652,509
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	26,648	2,032	-	28,680
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>2,043,030</u>	<u>153,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,196,731</u>
Net Capital Assets for Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 1,186,472</u>	<u>\$ (153,701)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,032,771</u>

NOTE 6 – CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS

On April 29, 2013 the board authorized the incurring of debt by issuing certificates of indebtedness in the amount of \$1,100,000 for the purpose of acquiring new fire vehicles, paying off existing debt, and to pay for the cost of issuing the certificates. These certificates were approved by the state bond commission at its meeting on March 21, 2013. Of the \$1,100,000 authorized by the board \$1,084,390 were issued as debt.

The debt matures 15 years from the issue date and shall initially bear an interest rate of 3.15% for the first 10 years and 2.20% for the next 5 years. The certificates will be repaid in one annual payment on June 1st of \$107,113 for the first 4 years and \$81,036 thereafter.

The amounts due on the certificates of indebtedness for the next five years and in five year increments thereafter are as follows:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$ 71,581	\$ 9,455	\$ 81,036
2025	73,836	7,200	81,036
2026	76,162	4,874	81,036
2027	78,641	2,395	81,036
	<u>\$ 300,220</u>	<u>\$ 23,924</u>	<u>\$ 324,144</u>

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 7 – CHANGES IN GENERAL LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS

	2022	New Debt	Principal Paid	2023
Certificates of indebtedness	\$ 369,615	\$ -	\$ (69,395)	\$ 300,220

NOTE 8 - RISK RETENTION

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; employee medical insurance; and natural disasters. The District carries commercial insurance for risks of loss or damage to property, general liability, and medical insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage in 2023 from coverage in the prior year.

NOTE 9 - COMPENSATION PAID TO BOARD MEMBERS

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 of the 1979 Session of the Louisiana Legislature, per diem paid to board members. The District paid it's only board member, Robert Allen, \$1,510 during the year.

NOTE 10 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the District have evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through June 30, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 11 - LEASES

The District entered into a lease purchase agreement for two fire trucks. The lease requires annual payments in March in the amount of \$89,184 and expires on April 1, 2032. The District can exercise a right to purchase the fire trucks at any point during the life of the lease. The fire trucks will transfer to the District upon contract expiration. The discount rate on the lease is approximately 3.25%. The right of use asset (ROU) reported on the statement of net position consist of the following activity:

	2022	Increase	Decrease	2023
Two Fire Trucks	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
Less: Accumulated Amortization	-	100,000	-	100,000
Financing ROU, net	\$ -	\$ 900,000	\$ -	\$ 900,000

The amounts due on the financing lease liability for the next five years and in five year increments thereafter are as follows:

Years	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 66,641	\$ 22,543	\$ 89,184
2025	68,834	20,350	89,184
2026	71,099	18,085	89,184
2027	73,439	15,745	89,184
2028	75,855	13,329	89,184
2029-2032	329,215	27,521	356,736
	\$ 685,083	\$ 117,573	\$ 802,656

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The following Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund is required by GASB 34. The schedule presents the original adopted budget and final budget for the fiscal year and compares the final budget to actual operations of the District

State Law requires the District to amend its budget when projected actual revenues and surplus is 5% below the adopted budget or when projected actual expenditures exceed 5% of the adopted budget. For the year ended December 31, 2023, actual revenues were 6% less than the final appropriated budget and actual expenditures were 2% more than the final appropriated budget.

The difference in budgeted to actual expense is attributable to the fact that the budget is prepared on a cash basis while the financials are prepared on the accrual basis.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-CASH BASIS
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (GAAP)	Actual (Cash)	Variance with	Percentage
	Cash Basis				Final Budget	Variance with
	Original	Final			Positive	Final Budget
Revenues						
Taxes						
Ad valorem	\$ 560,000	\$ 608,856	\$ 458,707	\$ 633,962	\$ (150,149)	-25%
Sales	180,000	180,000	276,575	276,575	96,575	54%
Intergovernmental revenues						
State revenue sharing	22,000	22,000	22,145	22,145	145	1%
Other	14,000	22,095	22,093	22,095	(2)	0%
Total Revenues	776,000	832,951	779,520	954,777	(53,431)	-6%
Expenditures						
Current operations						
Emergency fees	25,500	2,500	10,652	10,652	(8,152)	326%
Equipment maintenance	50,000	36,723	18,297	18,297	18,426	-50%
Insurance	82,500	50,000	54,925	54,925	(4,925)	10%
Legal and professional	44,000	28,700	53,228	48,333	(24,528)	85%
Miscellaneous	40,100	18,025	9,924	9,924	8,101	-45%
Payroll taxes and benefits	100,000	70,574	59,041	63,936	11,533	-16%
Salaries	567,000	369,436	418,342	418,342	(48,906)	13%
Supplies and protective gear	11,000	7,000	15,533	11,646	(8,533)	122%
Tax collector fees	26,000	-	17,660	24,875	(17,660)	100%
Training and fire prevention	8,000	7,613	3,777	3,777	3,836	-50%
Utilities	21,500	12,500	20,889	20,889	(8,389)	67%
Vehicle expense	86,000	60,901	73,398	73,398	(12,497)	21%

See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-CASH BASIS
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (GAAP)	Actual (Cash)	Variance with	Percentage Variance with Final Budget
	Cash Basis				Final Budget Positive (Negative)	
	Original	Final				
Capital outlays	585,500	496,421	1,000,000	3,887	(503,579)	101%
Debt service	139,000	-	(567,791)	35,908	567,791	100%
Total Expenditures	1,786,100	1,160,393	1,187,875	798,789	(27,482)	2%
(Expenditures in Excess of Revenue)						
Revenue in Excess of Expenditures	(1,010,100)	(327,442)	(408,355)	155,988	(80,913)	25%
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,010,100)	(327,442)	(408,355)	155,988	80,913	25%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	1,733,010	650,000	1,328,384	2,305,653	(678,384)	104%
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	\$ 722,910	\$ 322,558	\$ 920,029	\$ 2,461,641	\$ (597,471)	185%

See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The following pages contain a schedule of compensation paid to the agency head.

The following pages also contain a report on compliance with laws and regulations and on internal control over financial reporting as required by *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. This report is based solely on the audit of the financial statements and includes, where appropriate, any reportable conditions and/or material misstatements in internal control or compliance matters that would be material to the presented financial statements.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, NEW ROADS, LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND OTHER
PAYMENTS TO THE AGENCY HEAD**

Agency Head: Robert Allen

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Board per diems	\$ 1,510

See accompanying independent auditors' report and footnotes.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

To the Commissioners
Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee
Batchelor, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the government activities and each major fund of the Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee (hereafter The District) as of December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise The District’s basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered The 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 opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The District’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of The District’s internal control.

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether The 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 organization'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 organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daigrepoint & Brian APAC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daigrepoint & Brian, APAC
Baton Rouge, LA

June 30, 2024

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Fire Protections District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, (the "District"), as of December 31, 2023 for the year ended, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2024. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Summary of Auditors' Report

Financial Statements

Type of auditors' report issued:	Unqualified
Material weakness(es) identified?	No
Significant deficiencies identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses?	No
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	No

Findings - Financial Statement Audit

There are no findings for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Questioned Costs

There are no questioned costs for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE
PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Summary of Prior Audit Findings and Questioned Costs

There were no findings or questioned cost for the year ended December 31, 2022.



**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Board of Directors
Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee
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, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Pointe Coupee's (hereafter The District) management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

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, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

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 collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., 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, (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) **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- h) **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 (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (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 disclosure/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.

Exception: There is no written policy and procedures regarding disaster recovery. No other exceptions were noted as a result of applying these procedures.

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.
 - 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.*
 - 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.

- d) Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Bank Reconciliations

3. Obtain a listing of entity 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 each selected account, and observe that:
 - a) Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
 - 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 within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
 - c) Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

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).
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 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/official verifies the reconciliation.

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.
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). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* 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 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 or drawer).
 - e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

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).
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.
 - e) Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (ETF), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
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 whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

11. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. *Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.*

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

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

12. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, 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.

13. 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.

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

14. 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.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

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

15. 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.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Contracts

16. 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.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Payroll and Personnel

17. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
18. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #16 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
- a) Observe all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).
 - b) Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.
 - c) Observe any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity'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.

19. 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.
20. 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.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Ethics

21. 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.
 - 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.
22. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Debt Service

23. 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.
24. 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).

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Fraud Notice

25. 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.
26. 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.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

27. 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 evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government’s local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
 - 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.
28. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees previously obtained. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
29. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency’s information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:
 - a) Hired before June 9, 2020 - completed the training; and
 - b) Hired on or after June 9, 2020 - completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

Results: We performed the procedures and discussed the results with management.

Sexual Harassment

30. 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.
31. 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).
32. 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.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of applying this procedure.

Management's Response: We have reviewed the independent accountant's report on applying agreed-upon procedures and agree with the exceptions noted. We will review our policies and procedures and update accordingly to include the best practices suggested by the LLA.

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



Daigrepont & Brian, APAC
Baton Rouge, LA

June 30, 2024