

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

Lawrence County

Regular Audit

January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004

Fiscal Years Audited Under GAGAS: 2003 & 2004

BALESTRA, HARR & SCHERER, CPAs, INC.

**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
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PIKETON, OHIO 45661**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Board of Trustees
Lawrence Township, Lawrence County
PO Box 104
Kitts Hill, Ohio 45645

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer CPAs, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Auditor's Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Auditor's Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Lawrence Township, Lawrence County is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

BETTY MONTGOMERY
Auditor of State

November 10, 2005

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**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

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Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants

Independent Auditor's Report

Lawrence Township Board of Trustees
Lawrence County
140 Private Drive 7377
P.O. Box 32
Kitts Hill, Ohio 45645

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004 and 2003. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2004, the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards require us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since the Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts are materially misstated under accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2004, or their changes in financial position for the year then ended.

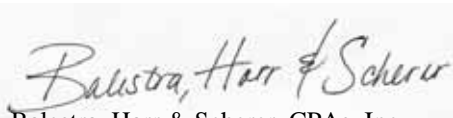
Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, as of December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Independent Auditor's Report

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The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion & Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion & Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 13, 2005, on our consideration of the Government's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing. It does not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



Balestra, Harr & Scherer

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

August 13, 2005

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$ 32,426	\$ 21,722	\$ 54,148
Intergovernmental	19,499	87,564	107,063
Earnings on Investments	379	254	633
Other Revenue	964	660	1,624
	<u>53,268</u>	<u>110,200</u>	<u>163,468</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	59,785	-	59,785
Public Safety	-	25,000	25,000
Public Works	-	99,193	99,193
Health	295	-	295
	<u>60,080</u>	<u>124,193</u>	<u>184,273</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under)Cash Disbursements	<u>(6,812)</u>	<u>(13,993)</u>	<u>(20,805)</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>42,271</u>	<u>151,103</u>	<u>193,374</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 35,459</u>	<u>\$ 137,110</u>	<u>\$ 172,569</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u><u>\$ 831</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 831</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$ 30,809	\$ 21,572	\$ 52,381
Intergovernmental	17,869	70,586	88,455
Earnings on Investments	409	288	697
Other Revenue	8,076	13,520	21,596
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	57,163	105,966	163,129
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	62,904		62,904
Public Safety		25,000	25,000
Public Works		45,212	45,212
Health	340		340
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	63,244	70,212	133,456
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(6,081)	35,754	29,673
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	48,352	115,349	163,701
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 42,271	\$ 151,103	\$ 193,374
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, (the Township) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees and a publicly-elected Clerk. The Township contracts with the Lawrence Township Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

Cash accounts are valued at cost. The Township had no investments during the audit period.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Fire District Fund - This fund receives property tax money for fire protection services.

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over to the subsequent year.

A summary of 2004 and 2003 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash pool used by all funds. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash at December 31 was as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Demand Deposits	\$172,569	\$193,374

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2004 and 2003, follows:

<u>2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts</u>			
<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$54,046	\$53,268	\$(778)
Special Revenue	<u>131,314</u>	<u>110,200</u>	<u>(21,114)</u>
Total	<u>\$185,359</u>	<u>\$163,467</u>	<u>\$ (21,892)</u>

<u>2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures</u>			
<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$94,400	\$60,911	\$33,489
Special Revenue	<u>245,623</u>	<u>124,193</u>	<u>121,430</u>
Total	<u>\$340,024</u>	<u>\$185,104</u>	<u>\$154,919</u>

<u>2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts</u>			
<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$112,318	\$57,163	\$(55,155)
Special Revenue	<u>223,311</u>	<u>105,966</u>	<u>(117,345)</u>
Total	<u>\$335,629</u>	<u>\$163,129</u>	<u>\$(172,500)</u>

<u>2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures</u>			
<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Appropriation Authority</u>	<u>Budgetary Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$128,039	\$63,244	\$64,795
Special Revenue	<u>221,476</u>	<u>70,212</u>	<u>151,264</u>
Total	<u>\$349,515</u>	<u>\$133,456</u>	<u>\$216,059</u>

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located in the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2004 and 2003, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2004.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustments expense. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks including automobile physical damage up to \$100,000 on any specific loss. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures specific losses exceeding \$100,000. The Travelers Indemnity Company also provides aggregate excess coverage for property including automobile physical damage subject to an annual stop loss. When the stop loss is reached in any year, The Travelers Indemnity Company provides coverage in excess of \$10,000.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and report the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2003 and 2002: Most recent information available:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$27,792,223	\$23,757,036
Liabilities	(11,791,300)	(9,197,512)
Retained earnings	<u>\$16,000,923</u>	<u>\$14,559,524</u>
<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$6,791,060	\$6,596,996
Liabilities	(750,956)	(1,204,326)
Retained earnings	<u>\$6,040,104</u>	<u>\$5,392,670</u>

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Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Lawrence Township Board of Trustees
Lawrence County
140 Private Drive 7377
P.O. Box 32
Kitts Hill, Ohio 45645

We have audited the financial statements of the Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003 and have issued our report thereon dated August 13, 2005, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Report on Internal Control Over Financial
Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by
Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

This report is intended for the information and use of the audit committee, management, the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Balestra, Harr & Scherer". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

August 13, 2005



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

LAWRENCE COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
NOVEMBER 29, 2005**