



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Fayette Township
Lawrence County
114 Lea Street
South Point, Ohio 45680

To the Board of Township Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS 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. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

July 11, 2007

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Fayette Township
Lawrence County
114 Lea Street
South Point, Ohio 45680

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Fayette Township, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. 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. The Township processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. 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 GAAP, we presume they are material.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require townships to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the 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 two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 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, 2006 and 2005, or its changes in financial position for the years 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 Fayette Township, Lawrence County, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and 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 July 11, 2007, on our consideration of the Township'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. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

July 11, 2007

**FAYETTE 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, 2006**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$56,678	\$174,974	\$231,652
Intergovernmental	67,354	108,600	175,954
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	38,473		38,473
Earnings on Investments	1,796	1,201	2,997
Other Revenue		740	740
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	164,301	285,515	449,816
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	66,117	51,716	117,833
Public Safety		95,413	95,413
Public Works	11,283	80,417	91,700
Conservation - Recreation	8,106		8,106
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal		9,429	9,429
Interest and Fiscal Charges		3,053	3,053
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	85,506	240,028	325,534
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78,795	45,487	124,282
Excess of Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	78,795	45,487	124,282
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	56,828	550,122	606,950
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<hr/> \$135,623 <hr/>	<hr/> \$595,609 <hr/>	<hr/> \$731,232 <hr/>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<hr/> <hr/> \$0	<hr/> <hr/> \$39,449	<hr/> <hr/> \$39,449

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

**FAYETTE 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, 2005**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Local Taxes	\$53,792	\$161,607	\$215,399
Intergovernmental	37,596	109,390	146,986
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	37,181		37,181
Earnings on Investments	1,472	985	2,457
Total Cash Receipts	<u>130,041</u>	<u>271,982</u>	<u>402,023</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	136,404		136,404
Public Safety		76,491	76,491
Public Works	8,315	90,890	99,205
Conservation - Recreation	13,439		13,439
Debt Service:			
Redemption of Principal	8,746	9,008	17,754
Interest and Fiscal Charges	459	3,474	3,933
Capital Outlay	84	9,206	9,290
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>167,447</u>	<u>189,069</u>	<u>356,516</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	<u>(37,406)</u>	<u>82,913</u>	<u>45,507</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(37,406)	82,913	45,507
Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (restated - Note 8)	<u>94,234</u>	<u>467,209</u>	<u>561,443</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$56,828</u>	<u>\$550,122</u>	<u>\$606,950</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Fayette Township, Lawrence County (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance and fire protection.

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

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Investments

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 reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds 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 to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

Special Levy Fund – This fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection for the Township residents.

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(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 or 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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered 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, and need not be reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law. Management has included audit adjustments in the accompanying budgetary presentations for material items that should have been encumbered.

A summary of 2006 and 2005 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Demand deposits	<u>\$731,232</u>	<u>\$606,950</u>

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005 follows:

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$150,546	\$164,301	\$13,755
Special Revenue	257,188	285,515	28,327
Total	\$407,734	\$449,816	\$42,082

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$207,374	\$85,506	\$121,868
Special Revenue	807,311	279,477	527,834
Total	\$1,014,685	\$364,983	\$649,702

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$143,043	\$130,041	(\$13,002)
Special Revenue	247,161	271,982	24,821
Total	\$390,204	\$402,023	\$11,819

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$237,278	\$167,447	\$69,831
Special Revenue	714,370	189,069	525,301
Total	\$951,648	\$356,516	\$595,132

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, 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 within the Township.

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX (Continued)

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. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2006 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
1995 GMC Tanker	\$41,321	4.50%
Bobcat Loader	17,091	4.50%
Total	\$58,412	

The 1995 GMC Tanker note was entered into jointly with Fayette Township Volunteer Fire Department #2 in 2004 for 10 years. The Bobcat Loader was obtained in 2004 for 5 years. All debt is collateralized by the equipment.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year ending December 31:	Equipment Notes
2007	\$12,482
2008	12,482
2009	12,482
2010	6,265
2011	6,265
2012 - 2014	18,794
Total	\$68,770

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2006 and 2005, OPERS members contributed 9 and 8.5%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 13.7 and 13.55%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2006.

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

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

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006 OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP provides *excess of funds available* coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (for claims prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (for claims on or after January 1, 2006) as noted above.

Property Coverage

Through 2004, OTARMA retained property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsured losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500 million per occurrence.

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2006 was \$1,901,127.

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.

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2006 and 2005:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$32,031,312	\$30,485,638
Liabilities	(11,443,952)	(12,344,576)
Retained earnings	<u>\$20,587,360</u>	<u>\$18,141,062</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$10,010,963	\$9,177,796
Liabilities	(676,709)	(1,406,031)
Retained earnings	<u>\$9,334,254</u>	<u>\$7,771,765</u>

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 958 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$29,880. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Township terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with OTARMA, the expected rates OTARMA charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
2004	\$16,119
2005	\$18,871
2006	\$14,940

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined OTARMA provided they give written notice to OTARMA 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's budgetary contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

8. RESTATEMENT OF BEGINNING BALANCES

The January 1, 2005 balances were restated due to errors noted as follows:

Fund Type	12/31/04 Balance	Restated 1/1/05 Balance	Restatement
General	\$ 56,014	\$ 94,234	\$ 38,220
Special Revenue	\$ 505,429	\$ 467,209	(\$ 38,220)

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Fayette Township
Lawrence County
114 Lea Street
South Point, Ohio 45680

To the Board of Township Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Fayette Township, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated July 11, 2007, 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 also noted that the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Township's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider the following deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting: 2006-001.

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www.auditor.state.oh.us

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. We believe the significant deficiency described above is not a material weakness.

We also noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated July 11, 2007.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect 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 an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2006-001.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated July 11, 2007.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Township Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

July 11, 2007

FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2006-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. "Then and Now" Certificate – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.

2. Blanket Certificate – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.

3. Super Blanket Certificate – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

In 2005 and 2006, twenty two percent and thirty three percent, respectively, of the transactions tested were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time the commitment was incurred and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances. Also, blanket certificates were not approved at a specified dollar amount by the Board of Township Trustees.

We recommend that no orders involving the expenditure of money be made unless the Township Clerk has certified that the amount required has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection. We also recommend the Board of Township Trustees approve a specified amount for blanket certificates.

Officials' Response: We did not receive a response from officials to this finding.

**FAYETTE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2004-001	Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) –Not certifying the availability of funds prior to commitment.	No	Not corrected. Reissued as Finding Number 2006-001.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

FAYETTE 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
AUGUST 7, 2007**