



PERRY

& Associates CPAs

PASSION *Beyond the Numbers*

**OR&W FIRE DISTRICT
BELMONT COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 - 2023**



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Board of Trustees
OR&W Fire District
4210 Central Avenue
Shadyside, Ohio 43947

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the OR&W Fire District, Belmont County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. 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.

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. The OR&W Fire District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

August 08, 2025

This page intentionally left blank.

OR&W FIRE DISTRICT
BELMONT COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2024	4
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2024	5
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	12
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	13
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	20
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	22

This page intentionally left blank.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
4210 Central Avenue
Shadyside, Ohio 43947

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the OR&W Fire District, Belmont County, Ohio (the District), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *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.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible 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 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 opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *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 GAAS 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.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 15, 2025, on our consideration of the District'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. 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 cursive script that reads "Perry & Associates CPAs A.C.".

Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

May 15, 2025

**OR&W FIRE DISTRICT
BELMONT COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 1,255,382	\$ -	\$ 1,255,382
Charges for Services	-	352,994	352,994
Intergovernmental	66,739	-	66,739
Interest	92,379	-	92,379
Miscellaneous	10,452	-	10,452
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,424,952</u>	<u>352,994</u>	<u>1,777,946</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current Disbursements:			
General Government	295,100	-	295,100
Public Safety	1,223,240	109,567	1,332,807
Capital Outlay	46,876	116,620	163,496
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	34,206	-	34,206
Interest and Fiscal Charges	21,022	-	21,022
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>1,620,444</u>	<u>226,187</u>	<u>1,846,631</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	(195,492)	126,807	(68,685)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Sale of Capital Assets	1,897	-	1,897
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>1,897</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,897</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(193,595)	126,807	(66,788)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated- See Note 13)</i>	<u>2,163,338</u>	<u>112,574</u>	<u>2,275,912</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,969,743</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 239,381</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,209,124</u></u>

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

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of OR&W Fire District, Belmont County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District consisting of the following: one member of the Board of Township Trustees of Mead Township who is appointed by the said Board, one member of the Council of the Village of Shadyside who is appointed by the said Council, one member that is a resident of Mead Township living outside the Village limits of Shadyside appointed by the Board of Township Trustees of Mead Township, one member that is a resident of the Village of Shadyside appointed by the Council of the Village of Shadyside, and one member that is a resident of either Mead Township or Village of Shadyside elected by the vote of at least three of the four other members. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the District are presented below:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS Service Fund This fund receives charges for services to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to Fire District residents.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District 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 financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Budgetary Process

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

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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

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 approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The District's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Capital Assets

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

Accumulated Leave

District employees earn sick and vacation time that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Leases

The District is the lessor in various leases (as defined by GASB 87) related to vehicles under noncancelable leases. Lease revenue/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 11.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2024 follows:

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 1,320,000	\$ 1,426,849	\$ 106,849
Special Revenue	250,000	352,994	102,994
Total	<u>\$ 1,570,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,779,843</u>	<u>\$ 209,843</u>

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 2,335,294	\$ 1,639,743	\$ 695,551
Special Revenue	328,995	236,325	92,670
Total	<u>\$ 2,664,289</u>	<u>\$ 1,876,068</u>	<u>\$ 788,221</u>

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	<u>2024</u>
Demand deposits	\$ 2,209,124

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 – Taxes

Property Taxes

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 non-business, owner occupancy, and homestead exemption credits and/or homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include these credits and/or deduction 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 District.

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

Several District certified Fire Fighters belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F 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. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The District contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24 percent of full-time fire fighters' wages. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some 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. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Social Security

Other District employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

Both OP&F and OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. OP&F uses a stipend-based health care model. A stipend funded by OP&F is placed in individual Health Reimbursement Accounts that retirees use to be reimbursed for health care expenses. For calendar year 2024, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2024, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2024, was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Fire Truck Lease	\$418,729	1%

The Fire District entered into a lease agreement to finance the purchase of a new truck in 2019. They make payments semi- annually concluding in 2034.

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

<u>Year Ending December 31:</u>	<u>Fire Truck Lease</u>
2025	\$ 55,228
2026	55,228
2027	55,228
2028	55,228
2029	55,228
2030-2034	248,528
Total	<u>\$ 524,670</u>

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 19,299	\$ 10,138	\$ 29,437
Total	<u>\$ 19,299</u>	<u>\$ 10,138</u>	<u>\$ 29,437</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted and committed amounts in the special revenue funds include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 12 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During 2024, the District did not receive COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

Note 13 – Restatement of Fund Cash Balance

The District increased their beginning fund cash position at January 1, 2024 in the General and Special Revenue funds due to voided checks. The effect of the adjustment on beginning fund cash balance is reflected in the chart below.

	12/31/2023 As Previously Reported	Error Correction Correction 1	1/1/2024 As Restated
Governmental Funds			
General Fund	\$ 2,162,945	\$ 393	\$ 2,163,338
Special Revenue Funds	112,566	8	112,574
Total Governmental Funds	<u>\$ 2,275,511</u>	<u>\$ 401</u>	<u>\$ 2,275,912</u>

**OR&W FIRE DISTRICT
BELMONT COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 1,262,357	\$ -	\$ 1,262,357
Charges for Services	-	275,328	275,328
Intergovernmental	54,643	-	54,643
Interest	77,369	-	77,369
Miscellaneous	1,003	2,500	3,503
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,395,372</u>	<u>277,828</u>	<u>1,673,200</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current Disbursements:			
General Government	275,008	-	275,008
Public Safety	818,246	152,703	970,949
Capital Outlay	10,495	-	10,495
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	32,644	122,378	155,022
Interest and Fiscal Charges	22,584	4,304	26,888
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>1,158,977</u>	<u>279,385</u>	<u>1,438,362</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	236,395	(1,557)	234,838
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Other Financing Sources	<u>-</u>	<u>1,318</u>	<u>1,318</u>
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,318</u>	<u>1,318</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	236,395	(239)	236,156
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>1,926,550</u>	<u>112,805</u>	<u>2,039,355</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 2,162,945</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 112,566</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,275,511</u></u>

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

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of OR&W Fire District, Belmont County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District consisting of the following: one member of the Board of Township Trustees of Mead Township who is appointed by the said Board, one member of the Council of the Village of Shadyside who is appointed by the said Council, one member that is a resident of Mead Township living outside the Village limits of Shadyside appointed by the Board of Township Trustees of Mead Township, one member that is a resident of the Village of Shadyside appointed by the Council of the Village of Shadyside, and one member that is a resident of either Mead Township or Village of Shadyside elected by the vote of at least three of the four other members. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the District are presented below:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Funds

Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and EMS Service Fund This fund receives charges for services to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to Fire District residents.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District 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 financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Budgetary Process

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

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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

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 approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits

The District's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Capital Assets

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

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Leases

The District is the lessor in various leases (as defined by GASB 87) related to vehicles under noncancelable leases. Lease revenue/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 11.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 1,241,602	\$ 1,395,372	\$ 153,770
Special Revenue	225,000	279,146	54,146
Total	<u>\$ 1,466,602</u>	<u>\$ 1,674,518</u>	<u>\$ 207,916</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$3,116,000	\$1,306,566	\$1,809,434
Special Revenue	336,820	279,630	57,190
Total	<u>\$ 3,452,820</u>	<u>\$ 1,586,196</u>	<u>\$ 1,866,624</u>

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	<u>2023</u>
Demand deposits	\$ 2,275,511

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 – Taxes

Property Taxes

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 non-business, owner occupancy, and homestead exemption credits and/or homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include these credits and/or deduction 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 District.

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

Several District certified Fire Fighters belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F 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. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The District contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24 percent of full-time fire fighters' wages. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some District 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. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Social Security

Other District employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

Both OP&F and OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. OP&F uses a stipend-based health care model. A stipend funded by OP&F is placed in individual Health Reimbursement Accounts that retirees use to be reimbursed for health care expenses. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2023, was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Fire Truck Lease	\$ 452,935	1%

The Fire District entered into a lease agreement to finance the purchase of a new truck in 2019. They make payments semi- annually concluding in 2034.

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

<u>Year Ending December 31:</u>	<u>Fire Truck Lease</u>
2024	\$ 55,228
2025	55,228
2026	55,228
2027	55,228
2028	55,228
2029-2033	276,142
2034	27,614
Total	<u>\$ 579,896</u>

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 147,589	\$ 245	\$ 147,834
Total	<u>\$ 147,589</u>	<u>\$ 245</u>	<u>\$ 147,834</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted and committed, amounts in the special revenue would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 12 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2023, the District did not receive COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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

OR&W Fire District
Belmont County
4210 Central Avenue
Shadyside, Ohio 43947

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance the 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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of the OR&W Fire District, Belmont County, (the District) and have issued our report thereon dated May 15, 2025, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

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 opinions 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 District'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 District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Perry & Associates CPAs A.C.".

Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

May 15, 2025

**OR&W FIRE DISTRICT
BELMONT COUNTY**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Financial Reporting	Partially Corrected	Moved to Management Letter

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



OR&W FIRE DISTRICT

BELMONT COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 8/21/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov