



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
ROSS COUNTY**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Springfield Township
Ross County
95 Musselman Mill Rd
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

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 Springfield Township, Ross County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, 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 total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, 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 Township, as of December 31, 2024, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year 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 Township, 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 Township 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 Township'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 *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 Township'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 Township'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.

Supplementary Information

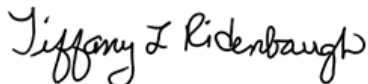
Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the Township's financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 8, 2025, 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. 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 Township'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 Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

September 8, 2025

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**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
ROSS COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$79,106	\$264,918	\$0	\$0	\$344,024
Charges for Services	0	25,985	0	0	25,985
Intergovernmental	40,916	1,639,123	0	0	1,680,039
Earnings on Investments	11,093	102	0	0	11,195
Miscellaneous	912	6,641	0	0	7,553
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>132,027</u>	<u>1,936,769</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,068,796</u>
Cash Disbursements					
Current:					
General Government	115,404	208,438	0	0	323,842
Public Safety	0	247,062	0	0	247,062
Public Works	0	2,222,500	0	0	2,222,500
Health	0	357	0	0	357
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>115,404</u>	<u>2,678,357</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,793,761</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>16,623</u>	<u>(741,588)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(724,965)</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)					
Other Debt Proceeds	0	208,697	0	0	208,697
Other Financing Uses	(150)	0	0	0	(150)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>208,697</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>208,547</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>16,473</u>	<u>(532,891)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(516,418)</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>147,770</u>	<u>1,427,133</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>1,575,518</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$164,243</u></u>	<u><u>\$894,242</u></u>	<u><u>\$421</u></u>	<u><u>\$194</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,059,100</u></u>

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

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Springfield Township
Ross 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 the Springfield Township, Ross 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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services.

Joint Ventures, Jointly Governed Organizations, Public Entity Risk Pools and Related Organizations

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities. The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township'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 all organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The Township 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 Township 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 Township 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 Township had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Miscellaneous Special Revenue Fund The miscellaneous special revenue fund accounts for and reports FEMA monies that are spent for 2 projects

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Bond (Note) Retirement Fund The General Bond (Note) Retirement Fund was used to pay principal for the debt from the Fire Levy.

Permanent Funds These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

Springfield Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Cemetery Bequest Fund The cemetery endowment fund accounts for and reports interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement restricted for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

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 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 financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

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 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. The Board of Trustees did not pass permanent appropriations in 2024.

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 Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. Management has included audit adjustments in the accompanying budgetary presentations for material items that should have been encumbered.

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

Deposits and Investments

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

Springfield Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Accumulated Leave

Township 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.

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The Township 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 Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

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 Township 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 Township 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 – Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the General fund by \$115,605; the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund in the amount of \$8,339; the Gasoline Tax Fund in the

Springfield Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

amount of \$131,240; the Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of \$141,421; the Special Fire Levy Fund in the amount of \$448,604; the Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance EMS Fund in the amount of \$5,241, and the Miscellaneous Special Levy Fund (FEMA) in the amount of \$879,219 for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Note 4 – 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	\$121,206	\$132,027	\$10,821
Special Revenue	2,272,030	2,145,466	(126,564)
Capital Projects	18,750	0	(18,750)
Total	<u>\$2,411,986</u>	<u>\$2,277,493</u>	<u>(\$134,493)</u>

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$795	\$116,401	(\$115,606)
Special Revenue	1,114,962	2,689,414	(1,574,452)
Capital Projects	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$1,115,757</u>	<u>\$2,805,815</u>	<u>(\$1,690,058)</u>

Note 5 – Deposits and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all fund are maintained in this pool. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Township's deposit and investment accounts are as follows:

	2024
Cash Management Pool:	
Demand deposits	\$834,879
Certificates of deposit	<u>224,222</u>
Total deposits	<u>1,059,101</u>

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.

Springfield Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 6 – 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.

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

Note 7 – Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

Springfield Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability
- Automobile Liability
- Automobile Physical Damage
- Public Officials Liability
- Property and Inland Marine
- Law enforcement liability
- Fidelity and Crime
- Employment Practices Liability
- Cyber Breach and Liability

The Pool reported the following summary of actuarially-measured liabilities and assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

	<u>2024</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 32,822,076
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 12,568,762

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Township 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 health care and survivor and disability benefits.

Springfield Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers 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.

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.

Note 10 – Debt

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

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Squad Loan	\$208,697	6%
Total	<u>\$208,697</u>	

In 2024, the Township issued a loan to finance the purchase of a Squad for the EMS. In the amount of \$208,697 with a maturity date of March 1, 2031.

Amortization

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

<u>Year Ending December 31:</u>	<u>Squad Loan</u>
2025	\$37,405
2026	37,405
2027	37,405
2028	37,405
2029	37,405
2030-2031	<u>74,811</u>
Total	<u>\$261,836</u>

Springfield Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township 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:

		Special	
Fund Balances	General	Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	847	11,057	11,904
Total	\$847	\$11,057	\$11,904

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects, and permanent funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

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**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
ROSS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Pass Through Entity Identifying Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY			
<i>Passed through Ohio Emergency Management Agency</i>			
Disaster Grants- Public Assistance	97.036	141-74129-00	<u>\$ 865,273</u>
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			<u>865,273</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>\$ 865,273</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
ROSS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR § 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Springfield Township (the Township) under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2024. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Township, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the Township.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The Township has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D - MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Certain Federal programs require the Township to contribute non-Federal funds (matching funds) to support the Federally-funded programs. The Township has met its matching requirements. The Schedule does not include the expenditure of non-Federal matching funds.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER

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

Springfield Township
Ross County
95 Musselman Mill Rd
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Springfield Township, Ross County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated September 8, 2025, wherein we noted the Township 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 Township'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 Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township'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 Township'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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2024-001 and 2024-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township'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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2024-003 and 2024-004.

Township's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Township's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and corrective action plan. The Township's responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

September 8, 2025



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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800-282-0370

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS
APPLICABLE TO THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Springfield Township
Ross County
95 Musselman Hill Rd
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited Springfield Township's, Ross County, (Township) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Springfield Township's major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2024. Springfield Township's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Springfield Township complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Township and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Township's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

The Township's Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Township's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Township's compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Township's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Township's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the Township's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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


Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Springfield Township
Ross County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to the Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance
Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 3

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of this testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

September 8, 2025

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**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
ROSS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
DECMEBER 31, 2024**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	97.036 FEMA Public Assistance Grants
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	No

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

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Material Weakness

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, Terms of Engagement, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs A14 & A16.

Due to deficiencies in the Township's financial statement and notes to the financial statements monitoring and review process, the following conditions were noted in relation to the Township's 2024 accounting system and financial report:

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001
(Continued)

General Fund

- Appropriation authority in the Budgetary Footnote was overstated by \$129,569 due to not approving permanent appropriations.
- Actual receipts in the Budgetary Footnote were understated by \$120 due to clerical errors.

Special Revenue Fund

- Miscellaneous receipts in the road and bridge fund were overstated and intergovernmental receipts in the miscellaneous special revenue fund were understated by \$41,943 due to the incorrect posting of a FEMA grant receipt.
- Loan proceeds were understated and miscellaneous receipts were overstated in the amount of \$208,697 in the Fire Levy fund due to incorrect posting of loan proceeds.
- Actual receipts in the Budgetary Footnote were understated by \$1,728 due to clerical errors.
- Appropriation authority in the Budgetary Footnote was overstated by \$1,888,961 due to not approving permanent appropriations.
- Budgeted receipts in the Budgetary Footnote were understated by \$618,328 due to incorrect posting of approved amounts to the accounting system.

Capital Projects Fund

- Budgeted Receipts in the Budgetary Footnote was understated by \$18,750 due to incorrect posting of approved amounts to the accounting system.

Failure to accurately post and report transactions could result in material errors in the Township's financial statements and reduces the Township's ability to monitor financial activity and to make sound decisions which affect the overall available cash position of the Township.

Appropriate adjustments were made to the financial report and accounting system as approved by management.

The Township should establish and implement an internal control process to ensure financial transactions are accurately recorded and reported.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

FINDING NUMBER 2024-002

Material Weakness

Sound accounting practices require accurately posting estimated receipts and appropriations to the ledgers to provide information for budget versus actual comparison and to allow the Board to make informed decisions regarding budgetary matters.

The Appropriation resolution and subsequent amendments establish the legal spending authority of the Township and the appropriation ledger provides the process by which the Township controls spending, it is therefore necessary the amounts appropriated by the Board are precisely stated and accurately posted to the appropriation ledger.

The original certificate and amendments establish the amounts available for expenditures for the Township and the receipts ledger provides the process by which the Township controls what is available, it is therefore necessary the amounts estimated by the County Budget Commission are posted accurately to the receipts ledger.

FINDING NUMBER 2024-002
(Continued)

The Township did not have internal control procedures in place to accurately post authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The appropriations (and/or amendments thereof) approved by the Board were not properly posted to the accounting system causing the system to be more than the approved appropriations as follows:

- General Fund Appropriations were overstated by \$130,364.
- Special Revenue Appropriations were overstated by \$1,817,417.
- Capital Projects Appropriations were overstated by \$18,750.

Additionally, the approved Certificate of Estimated Resources (and/or amendments thereof) was not posted to the accounting system causing the system to be less than approved estimated resources in the Special Revenue funds by \$637,078.

Failure to accurately post the appropriations and estimated resources to the ledgers could result in overspending and negative cash balances. In addition, this could lead to inaccurate reporting of the budgetary information in the financial statements.

To effectively control the budgetary cycle and to maintain accountability over receipts and expenditures, the Township should establish and implement internal control process to help ensure the posting of approved budgetary measures to the ledgers, on a timely basis, estimated resources as certified by the budget commission and appropriations approved by the Board. The Township should then monitor budget versus actual reports to help ensure amended certificates of resources and appropriations have been properly posted to the ledgers.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

FINDING NUMBER 2024-003

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.38(A) requires that on or about the first day of each fiscal year, an appropriation measure is to be passed. If the taxing authority wants to postpone the passage of the annual appropriation measure until an amended certificate is received from the county budget commission based upon the actual year end balances, it may pass a temporary appropriation measure for meeting the ordinary expenses until no later than April 1.

Due to a lack of internal controls over the budgetary cycle, the Township did not pass a Permanent resolution for appropriations in 2024.

Failure to do so may cause over spending by the Township.

The Township should establish and implement internal control procedures to ensure the approval and documentation of permanent appropriations before April 1 in the fiscal year.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

FINDING NUMBER 2024-004

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority unit from making any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Due to inadequate policies and procedures in approving and reviewing budget versus actual information, the Township had expenditures in excess of appropriations in the General fund in the amount of \$115,605; the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund in the amount of \$8,339; the Gasoline Tax Fund in the amount of \$131,240; the Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of \$141,421; the Special Fire Levy Fund in the amount of \$448,604; the Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance EMS Fund in the amount of \$5,241, and the Miscellaneous Special Levy Fund (FEMA) in the amount of \$879,219 for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Failure to have adequate appropriations in place at the time expenditures are made could cause expenditures to exceed available resources, further resulting in deficit spending practices.

The Board of Trustees should establish and implement internal control procedures to closely monitor expenditures and appropriations and make the necessary appropriation amendments, if possible, to reduce the likelihood of expenditures exceeding appropriations. Additionally, the Fiscal Officer should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations when appropriations are inadequate to cover the expenditures.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF
TRUSTEES
95 MUSSELMAN MILL ROAD
CHILLICOTHE, OH 45601
740-774-1081**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.511(b)
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2023-001	Financial Reporting	Not corrected	Reissued as finding 2024-001

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**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD
OF TRUSTEES
95 MUSSELMAN MILL ROAD
CHILLICOTHE, OH 45601
740-774-1081**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
2 CFR § 200.511(c)
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Finding Number:	2024-001
Planned Corrective Action:	Will approve the Permanent Appropriations & more careful attention paid.
Anticipated Completion Date:	Done
Responsible Contact Person:	Carol Schrader
Finding Number:	2024-002
Planned Corrective Action:	Provide additional paperwork for the Trustees to look over at each meeting.
Anticipated Completion Date:	Done
Responsible Contact Person:	Carol Schrader
Finding Number:	2024-003
Planned Corrective Action:	Will be done.
Anticipated Completion Date:	Done
Responsible Contact Person:	Carol Schrader
Finding Number:	2024-004
Planned Corrective Action:	To make sure that it is included for the fiscal officer to not only move monies with the funds and send for an amended certificate but to also make necessary changes to the appropriations to pay bills, and to make sure that they approve the Permanent Appropriations April 1. Will be a permanent part in the minutes also.
Anticipated Completion Date:	Taken care of going forward.
Responsible Contact Person:	Carol Schrader

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

ROSS 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 9/23/2025

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