



**PERRY**

**& Associates CPAs**

**PASSION** *Beyond the Numbers*

**WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT  
LICKING COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 - 2022**





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

Board of Trustees  
West Licking Joint Fire District  
851 East Broad Street  
Pataskala, OH 43062

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. 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 West Licking Joint Fire District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 04, 2025

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**WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT  
LICKING COUNTY**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

West Licking Joint Fire District  
Licking County  
851 East Broad Street  
Pataskala, OH 43062

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 West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking 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, 2023 and 2022, 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, 2023 and 2022, 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, 2023 and 2022, 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 September 30, 2024, 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 Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



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

September 30, 2024

**WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT  
LICKING 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	Capital Projects	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 13,685,652	\$ 1,374,979	\$ -	\$ 15,060,631
Charges for Services	1,000,000	1,831,983	-	2,831,983
Intergovernmental	975,602	20,244	-	995,846
Earnings on Investments	402,205	-	-	402,205
Miscellaneous	572,951	23,374	-	596,325
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>16,636,410</u>	<u>3,250,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,886,990</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current Disbursements:				
General Government	15,213,789	1,528,412	-	16,742,201
Capital Outlay	34,973	1,517,639	6,588,801	8,141,413
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	321,687	-	321,687
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	362,395	-	362,395
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>15,248,762</u>	<u>3,730,133</u>	<u>6,588,801</u>	<u>25,567,696</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>1,387,648</u>	<u>(479,553)</u>	<u>(6,588,801)</u>	<u>(5,680,706)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</b>				
Sale of Bonds	-	-	3,500,000	3,500,000
Premium and Accrued Interest on Debt	-	40,038	-	40,038
Sale of Capital Assets	-	17,327	-	17,327
Transfers In	-	-	800,000	800,000
Transfers Out	(800,000)	-	-	(800,000)
Advances In	500,000	-	500,000	1,000,000
Advances Out	(500,000)	-	(500,000)	(1,000,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(800,000)</u>	<u>57,365</u>	<u>4,300,000</u>	<u>3,557,365</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>587,648</u>	<u>(422,188)</u>	<u>(2,288,801)</u>	<u>(2,123,341)</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>4,888,616</u>	<u>1,945,605</u>	<u>5,140,264</u>	<u>11,974,485</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 5,476,264</u>	<u>\$ 1,523,417</u>	<u>\$ 2,851,463</u>	<u>\$ 9,851,144</u>

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

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. An eight-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Etna Township, Jersey Township, Harrison Township, Village of Kirkersville, City of Reynoldsburg, City of Reynoldsburg, City of Pataskala, and Village of Hebron. 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 is 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:

**Special Levy Fund** – Receives tax and intergovernmental revenue for equipment and capital outlay expenditures related to fire equipment.

**Fire and Rescue Ambulance EMS Fund** – Receives charges for services directly related to Emergency Medical Service billings for direct costs of services.

***Capital Project Funds*** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The District had the following significant Capital Project Funds:

**Station 404 Fund – 2022** Bond proceeds of \$5,500,000 received for the construction of a new fire station at 8070 Taylor Rd., Reynoldsburg, OH.

**Station 403 Fund – 2023** Bond proceeds of \$3,500,000.00 received for the purchase of property at 8070 Columbia Rd. SW Etna, OH 43062, the remodeling of the existing structure and the new construction of an addition to the structure.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

***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.

***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.

***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 2023 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.

Investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

***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.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Leases**

The District is the lessee 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.

***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 10.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

**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	\$ 16,435,651	\$ 16,636,410	\$ 200,759
Special Revenue	3,267,676	3,307,945	40,269
Capital Projects	3,500,000	4,300,000	800,000
Total	<u>\$ 23,203,327</u>	<u>\$ 24,244,355</u>	<u>\$ 1,041,028</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 17,144,094	\$ 17,047,199	\$ 96,895
Special Revenue	4,604,911	4,371,116	233,795
Capital Projects	9,339,108	9,339,108	-
Total	<u>\$ 31,088,113</u>	<u>\$ 30,757,423</u>	<u>\$ 330,690</u>

**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:

	2023
Demand deposits	<u>\$ 8,862,709</u>
Total deposits	<u>8,862,709</u>
STAR Ohio	<u>988,435</u>
Total investments	<u>988,435</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$ 9,851,144</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.

**Investments**

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**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.

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**

***Risk Pool Membership***

The District belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management programs and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and has remain unchanged. OPRM had 801 members as of December 31, 2023.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, with the exception of a qualified opinion related to recording premiums and membership fees earned in full as of December 31, 2023. Those premiums and fees should be earned pro-rata over the individual coverage and membership periods of each policy. The financial statements reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2023.

	2023
Cash and investments	\$ 23,113,696
Actuarial liabilities	(16,078,587)
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 7,035,109</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, [www.ohioplan.org](http://www.ohioplan.org).

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System***

The 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***

Other 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***

Several 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.



**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking 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:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Fire Station Bonds	\$ 1,415,000	5%
Station 404 Bonds	5,360,000	4%
Station 403 Bonds	3,500,000	4%
Fire Truck Lease	764,186	3.765%
Total	<u>\$ 11,039,186</u>	

On May 22, 2018, the District issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1,750,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of a new fire station with the bonds maturing in 2038. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

On January 31, 2019, the District entered into a Equipment Lease Purchase agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of a new Fire Truck. The lease matures on January 31, 2029.

On May 19, 2022, the District issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$5,500,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of a new fire station with the bonds maturing in 2046. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

On August 8, 2023, the District issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$3,500,000 for the purpose of purchasing the property located at 8070 Columbia Rd. SW Etna, OH 43062, the remodeling of the existing structure and the new construction of an addition to the structure.

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

Year Ending December 31:	Fire Truck Lease	Fire Station Bonds	Station 404 Bonds	Station 403 Bonds
2024	\$ 144,664	\$ 91,000	\$ 359,400	\$ 267,200
2025	144,664	97,500	358,600	266,700
2026	144,664	97,500	362,600	265,950
2027	144,664	104,000	361,200	264,950
2028	144,664	104,000	359,600	263,700
2029-2033	144,664	667,000	1,804,800	1,323,250
2034-2038	-	833,750	1,806,000	1,324,650
2039-2043	-	-	1,806,000	1,320,000
2044-2048	-	-	1,081,000	-
Total	<u>\$ 867,984</u>	<u>\$ 1,994,750</u>	<u>\$ 8,299,200</u>	<u>\$ 5,296,400</u>

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

**Note 10 – 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:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 998,437	\$ 640,983	\$ 2,750,307	\$ 4,389,727
Total	\$ 998,437	\$ 640,983	\$ 2,750,307	\$ 4,389,727

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 including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**Note 11 – Restatement of Fund Balance**

During 2023, the General Fund was restated to account for checks that were voided throughout the year. The following change affected beginning balance as such:

	General
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 4,887,426
To correct for voided checks	1,190
Balance as of January 1, 2023	\$ 4,888,616

**WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT  
LICKING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY BASIS)  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 12,342,956	\$ 1,245,387	\$ -	\$ 13,588,343
Charges for Services	389,303	1,521,011	-	1,910,314
Intergovernmental	877,194	18,179	-	895,373
Earnings on Investments	117,124	-	-	117,124
Miscellaneous	254,430	20,635	-	275,065
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>13,981,007</u>	<u>2,805,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,786,219</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current Disbursements:				
General Government	12,776,101	1,474,784	-	14,250,885
Public Safety	-	309,888	-	309,888
Capital Outlay	-	1,110,007	342,589	1,452,596
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	177,635	-	177,635
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	216,082	-	216,082
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>12,776,101</u>	<u>3,288,396</u>	<u>342,589</u>	<u>16,407,086</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>1,204,906</u>	<u>(483,184)</u>	<u>(342,589)</u>	<u>379,133</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</b>				
Sale of Bonds	-	-	5,500,000	5,500,000
Premium and Accrued Interest on Debt	-	-	6,999	6,999
Sale of Capital Assets	-	84,699	-	84,699
Advances In	-	300,000	-	300,000
Advances Out	-	-	(300,000)	(300,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>384,699</u>	<u>5,206,999</u>	<u>5,591,698</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	1,204,906	(98,485)	4,864,410	5,970,831
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>3,682,520</u>	<u>2,044,090</u>	<u>275,854</u>	<u>6,002,464</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 4,887,426</u>	<u>\$ 1,945,605</u>	<u>\$ 5,140,264</u>	<u>\$ 11,973,295</u>

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

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. An eight-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Etna Township, Jersey Township, Harrison Township, Village of Kirkersville, City of Reynoldsburg, City of Pataskala, and Village of Hebron. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The Village of Hebron voted to join West Licking Joint Fire District and it became effective on August 16, 2022.

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 is 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:

**Special Levy Fund** – Receives tax and intergovernmental revenue for equipment and capital outlay expenditures related to fire equipment.

**Fire and Rescue Ambulance EMS Fund** – Receives charges for services directly related to Emergency Medical Service billings for direct costs of services.

**Capital Project Funds** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The District had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

**Station 404 Fund** – Bond proceeds of \$5,500,000 received for the construction of a new fire station at 8070 Taylor Rd., Reynoldsburg, OH.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

***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 Board 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.

***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 2022 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.

The District values U.S. Treasury Notes and common stock at cost. Money market mutual funds are recorded at share values the mutual funds report. Investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

***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.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Leases**

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

***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 10.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

**Note 3 – Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 13,892,691	\$ 13,981,007	\$ 88,316
Special Revenue	2,770,000	3,189,911	419,911
Capital Projects	5,500,000	5,506,999	6,999
Total	<u>\$ 22,162,691</u>	<u>\$ 22,677,917</u>	<u>\$ 515,226</u>

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 13,438,263	\$ 12,928,716	\$ 509,547
Special Revenue	3,887,404	3,358,351	529,053
Capital Projects	5,475,854	5,681,696	(205,842)
Total	<u>\$ 22,801,521</u>	<u>\$ 21,968,763</u>	<u>\$ 832,758</u>

**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:

	2022
Demand deposits	<u>\$ 11,035,097</u>
Total deposits	<u>11,035,097</u>
STAR Ohio	<u>938,198</u>
Total investments	<u>938,198</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$ 11,973,295</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.

**Investments**

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**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.

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**

***Risk Pool Membership***

The District belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and has remain unchanged. OPRM had 773 members as of December 31, 2022.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2022.

	<u>2022</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 21,662,291
Actuarial liabilities	<u>(18,158,351)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 3,503,940</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, [www.ohioplan.org](http://www.ohioplan.org).

**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System***

The 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.



**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Continued)**

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, 2022.

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

Other 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, 2022.

***Social Security***

Several 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, 2022.

**Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits**

Both OP&F and OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 1.0 percent during calendar year 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Beginning January 1, 2019, OP&F changed its retiree health care model to a stipend-based health care model. A stipend funded by OP&F was placed in individual Health Reimbursement Accounts that retirees use to be reimbursed for health care expenses.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

**Note 9 – Debt**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2022, was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Fire Station Bonds	\$1,485,000	5%
Station 404 Bonds	5,500,000	4%
Fire Truck Lease	875,873	3.765%
Total	<u>\$7,860,873</u>	

On May 22, 2018, the District issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1,750,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of a new fire station with the bonds maturing in 2038. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

On January 31, 2019, the District entered into a Equipment Lease Purchase agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of a new Fire Truck. The lease matures on January 31, 2029.

On May 2022, the District issued general obligation bonds in the of \$5,500,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of a new fire station with the bonds maturing in 2046. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

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

Year Ending December 31:	Fire Truck Lease	Station 404 Bonds	Fire Station Bonds
2023	\$ 144,664	\$ 360,000	\$ 91,000
2024	144,664	359,400	91,000
2025	144,664	358,600	97,500
2026	144,664	362,600	97,500
2027	144,664	361,200	104,000
2028-2032	289,328	1,801,800	626,000
2033-2037	-	1,806,200	797,500
2038-2042	-	1,806,000	181,250
2043-2047	-	1,443,400	-
Total	<u>\$ 1,012,648</u>	<u>\$ 8,659,200</u>	<u>\$ 2,085,750</u>

**West Licking Joint Fire District**  
*Licking County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 10 – 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>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 152,615	\$ 69,955	\$ 5,039,107	\$ 5,261,677
Total	<u>\$ 152,615</u>	<u>\$ 69,955</u>	<u>\$ 5,039,107</u>	<u>\$ 5,261,677</u>

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 including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

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

West Licking Joint Fire District  
Licking County  
851 East Broad Street  
Pataskala, OH 43062

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 as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the related notes to the financial statements of the West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, (the District) and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2024, 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. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as items 2023-001 and 2023-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

### ***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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2023-002.

### ***Response to Findings***

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings. The District'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 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.



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

September 30, 2024

**WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT  
LICKING COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2023-001**

**Material Weakness**

**Financial Reporting**

The District is responsible for establishing procedures and controls to help prevent and detect errors in financial reporting.

During 2023 and 2022, receipts were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

- A Manufactured Home Settlement Receipt was misclassified in 2022 as Intergovernmental instead of Property Tax;
- Premium on Bond was misclassified in 2022 as Sale of Bonds instead of Premium and Accrued Interest on Debt;

Not posting receipts accurately resulted in the financial statements requiring several reclassification and adjusting entries. The Financial Statements reflect all reclassifications and adjustments. The District has made these adjustments to their accounting system.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all sources of revenues are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

**Officials' Response** – These items will be corrected moving forward.

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-002**

**Material Weakness/Noncompliance**

**Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.09** requires, in part, each subdivision to establish a bond retirement fund for the retirement of serial bonds, notes or certificates of indebtedness.

During 2022 and 2023, the District issued bonds and did not establish a debt service fund to account for the bond proceeds or the retirement of the bond.

We recommend the District establish a debt service fund for the Station 404 and Station 403 bonds. New funds established should be approved by the Board and documented in the minutes.

**Officials' Response** – The Board is discussing the opening of a debt service fund.

**WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT  
LICKING COUNTY**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2021-001	Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2023-001

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT**

**LICKING 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 3/18/2025**

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)