



**bhm cpa group, inc.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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CITY OF WELLSTON  
JACKSON COUNTY

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024





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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov  
800-282-0370

City Council  
City of Wellston  
203 E. Broadway St.  
Wellston, OH 45692

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the City of Wellston, Jackson County, prepared by BHM CPA Group, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State

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

January 13, 2026

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

City of Wellston  
Jackson County  
203 East Broadway Street  
Wellston, Ohio 45692

To the City Council:

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

***Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Wellston, Jackson County, Ohio (the City), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Wellston, Jackson County, Ohio as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparisons for the General, Fire Levy and County Sales Tax funds for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***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 City, 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.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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 City'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 City'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 City'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.



***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 2, 2025, on our consideration of the City'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 City'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 City's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BHM CPA Group". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

BHM CPA Group, Inc.  
Portsmouth, Ohio  
September 2, 2025

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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The discussion and analysis of the City of Wellston's financial performance provides an overall review of the City's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the City's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the City's financial performance.

**Financial Highlights**

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

- The City's total net position decreased by \$89,004. Net position of governmental activities increased \$328,562 from the prior year. Net position of business-type activities decreased \$417,566 from the prior year.
- The Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project started in 2024. The total estimated cost of this project is \$5,335,000, while the 2024 expenses were \$521,121.
- The New York – Broadway Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Project started in 2024 to update the sewer system on New York and Broadway Streets. The total estimated cost of this project is \$1,351,868, while the 2024 expenses were \$648,690.

**Using this Annual Financial Report**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the City of Wellston as a financial whole or as an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities and conditions.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the whole City, presenting both an aggregate view of the City's finances and a longer-term view of those assets. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what dollars remain for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the City's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column.

***Reporting the City of Wellston as a Whole***

**Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities**

While this document contains information about the funds used by the City to provide services to our citizens, the view of the City as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2024?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities deferred outflows/inflows using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private sector companies. This basis of accounting considers all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the City's net position and changes in net positions. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader whether, for the City as a whole, the financial position of the City has improved or diminished. However, in evaluating the overall position of the City, nonfinancial information such as the condition of City capital assets will also need to be evaluated.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, the City is divided into two kinds of activities:

Governmental Activities – Most of the City's services are reported here including police, administration, and all departments except for our Water, Sewer, and Garbage Funds.

Business-Type Activities – Water and sewer services have charges based upon the amount of usage. The City historically has not charged fees to recoup the cost of the entire operations of our Water and Sewer Treatment Plants as well as all capital expenses associated with the facilities. In recent years, these rates have been increasing regularly to recoup all costs involved. Garbage collection services have charges based upon set rates. The City attempts to set fees that cover the costs of providing the service.

***Reporting the City of Wellston's Most Significant Funds***

***Fund Financial Statements***

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the City's most significant funds – not the City as a whole. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The City, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the City can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the City's major funds. Based on the restriction on the use of monies, the City has established many funds that account for the multitude of services provided to its residents. However, these fund financial statements focus on the City's most significant funds. The City's major governmental funds are the General Fund, as well as the Fire Levy Special Revenue Fund, County Sales Tax Special Revenue Fund, and the Permanent Investment Capital Projects Fund.

***Governmental Funds*** Governmental Funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on current sources and uses of spendable resources, as well as balances of spendable resources available at the end of the year. Such information may be useful in evaluating the City's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, the reader may better understand the long-term impact of the City's near-term financial decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The City maintains a number of individual governmental funds. Information for the major funds, identified earlier, is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single aggregated presentation.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
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*Unaudited*

**Enterprise Funds** The City uses enterprise funds to account for its water, sewer, and garbage operations. For water and sewer operations, the City charges a fee to customers, based upon the amount of usage, in an attempt to recover the costs of the services provided. For garbage operations, the City charges a flat monthly fee.

**Fiduciary Fund** The City accounts for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government as a fiduciary fund. This fund is not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of this fund are not available to support the City's own programs. The City uses accrual accounting for fiduciary funds, the same as that of the proprietary funds.

**The City of Wellston as a Whole**

Recall that the Statement of Net Position looks at the City as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the City's net position for 2024 compared to 2023.

**Table 1 - Net Position**

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>						
Current and Other Assets	\$7,158,410	\$7,248,188	\$4,901,471	\$6,786,083	\$12,059,881	\$14,034,271
Net OPEB Asset	37,542	0	78,387	0	115,929	0
Capital Assets	7,712,052	6,794,134	17,384,017	17,292,414	25,096,069	24,086,548
<i>Total Assets</i>	<i>14,908,004</i>	<i>14,042,322</i>	<i>22,363,875</i>	<i>24,078,497</i>	<i>37,271,879</i>	<i>38,120,819</i>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>						
Pension	1,069,783	1,412,248	878,692	1,140,635	1,948,475	2,552,883
OPEB	140,312	218,118	68,776	152,740	209,088	370,858
Asset Retirement Obligation	0	0	72,622	75,376	72,622	75,376
<i>Total Deferred Outflows</i>	<i>1,210,095</i>	<i>1,630,366</i>	<i>1,020,090</i>	<i>1,368,751</i>	<i>2,230,185</i>	<i>2,999,117</i>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Current and Other Liabilities	219,533	252,045	532,966	2,742,154	752,499	2,994,199
Long-term Liabilities:						
Due Within One Year	157,941	102,214	281,352	298,248	439,293	400,462
Due in More than One Year:						
Net Pension Liability	3,147,140	3,486,567	2,378,680	2,429,550	5,525,820	5,916,117
Net OPEB Liability	174,677	198,944	0	49,537	174,677	248,481
Other Amounts	1,069,600	479,633	4,336,315	3,571,921	5,405,915	4,051,554
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<i>4,768,891</i>	<i>4,519,403</i>	<i>7,529,313</i>	<i>9,091,410</i>	<i>12,298,204</i>	<i>13,610,813</i>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>						
Property Taxes	705,543	642,849	0	0	705,543	642,849
Pension	208,026	190,444	76	96	208,102	190,540
OPEB	175,240	207,390	50,047	16,338	225,287	223,728
Leases	203,733	214,785	0	0	203,733	214,785
<i>Total Deferred Inflows</i>	<i>1,292,542</i>	<i>1,255,468</i>	<i>50,123</i>	<i>16,434</i>	<i>1,342,665</i>	<i>1,271,902</i>
<b>Net Position</b>						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	6,733,952	6,267,867	13,067,328	11,520,705	19,801,280	17,788,572
Restricted	4,247,637	4,345,177	78,387	0	4,326,024	4,345,177
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(924,923)	(715,227)	2,658,814	4,818,699	1,733,891	4,103,472
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<i>\$10,056,666</i>	<i>\$9,897,817</i>	<i>\$15,804,529</i>	<i>\$16,339,404</i>	<i>\$25,861,195</i>	<i>\$26,237,221</i>

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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**New Accounting Pronouncement/Restatements**

Table 1 provides a summary of the City's net position for 2024 compared to 2023. For 2024, the City implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. The City also implemented GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which does not require Management Discussion and Analysis information for years prior to periods presented in the basic financial statements to be restated for changes in accounting principle.

The implementation of GASB 101 resulted in recognizing additional compensated absences liabilities of \$169,713 in governmental activities, and \$117,309 in business-type activities at January 1, 2024. These amounts also impacted beginning net position for the cumulative effect of additional compensated absences expense (See Note 3).

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the City at December 31, 2024. GASB notes that pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the "employment exchange" – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other postemployment benefits. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the City is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of these liabilities. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Both employer and employee contribution rates are capped by State statute. A change in these caps requires action of both Houses of the General Assembly and approval of the Governor. Benefit provisions are also determined by State statute. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the City's statements prepared on an accrual basis of accounting include an annual pension expense and an annual OPEB expense for their proportionate share of each plan's *change* in net pension liability (asset) and net OPEB liability (asset), respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows.

Most long-term liabilities have set repayment schedules or, in the case of compensated absences (i.e. sick and vacation leave), are satisfied through paid time-off or termination payments. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability or the net OPEB liability. As explained above, changes in benefits, contribution rates, and return on investments affect the balance of these liabilities but are outside the control of the local government. In the event that contributions, investment returns, and other changes are insufficient to keep up with required payments, State statute does not assign/identify the responsible party for the unfunded portion. Due to the unique nature of how the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability are satisfied, these liabilities are separately identified within the long-term liability section of the statement of net position.

For governmental activities, total assets increased mainly due to the increase in depreciable capital assets, largely due to the purchase of a new fire truck and the ongoing projects that are in progress at the end of 2024. This increase was partly due to increases in net OPEB asset. Property taxes receivable increased during 2024 due to an increase in the amounts certified to be collected by the County Auditor. In 2024, there were new loans given to community members to restore and rehabilitate buildings in the City; this caused an increase to loans receivable. There was an increase in materials and supplies inventory in 2024, along with an increase to prepaid items.

Liabilities increased mainly due to an increase in net pension liability and the addition of a new loan in the amount of \$540,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck. These increases were offset by a decrease in unearned revenue.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

For business-type activities, total assets decreased. The intergovernmental receivables decreased due to grant projects coming closer to project completion. Accounts receivable decreased due to changes in office policies and procedures for customers to pay charges earlier. These decreases were offset by increases in capital assets and the net OPEB asset.

Total liabilities in the business-type activities decreased mainly due to net pension/OPEB liabilities and contracts payable. The decrease in contracts payable is due to the completion of projects in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds.

In order to further understand what makes up the changes in net position for the current year, the following table gives readers further details regarding the results of activities for 2024 and 2023.

**Table 2 - Changes in Net Position**

	Governmental Activities 2024	Business- Type Activities 2024	Total 2024	Governmental Activities 2023	Business- Type Activities 2023	Total 2023
<b>Revenues</b>						
Program Revenues:						
Charges for Services	\$576,002	\$3,895,647	\$4,471,649	\$652,410	\$4,491,790	\$5,144,200
Operating Grants and Contributions	800,043	0	800,043	798,510	0	798,510
Capital Grants and Contributions	397,300	377,782	775,082	579,811	3,153,497	3,733,308
<i>Total Program Revenues</i>	<i>1,773,345</i>	<i>4,273,429</i>	<i>6,046,774</i>	<i>2,030,731</i>	<i>7,645,287</i>	<i>9,676,018</i>
General Revenues:						
Property Taxes	822,240	0	822,240	766,569	0	766,569
Income Taxes	1,551,233	0	1,551,233	1,561,194	0	1,561,194
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Taxes	73,614	0	73,614	80,496	0	80,496
Grants and Entitlements	248,604	0	248,604	129,597	0	129,597
Investment Earnings and Other Interest	227,674	0	227,674	296,845	0	296,845
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets	0	0	0	0	52,500	52,500
Miscellaneous	112,295	6,763	119,058	74,914	0	74,914
<i>Total General Revenues</i>	<i>3,035,660</i>	<i>6,763</i>	<i>3,042,423</i>	<i>2,909,615</i>	<i>52,500</i>	<i>2,962,115</i>
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<i>4,809,005</i>	<i>4,280,192</i>	<i>9,089,197</i>	<i>4,940,346</i>	<i>7,697,787</i>	<i>12,638,133</i>
<b>Program Expenses</b>						
General Government	1,153,340	0	1,153,340	1,193,707	0	1,193,707
Security of Persons and Property:						
Police	1,637,136	0	1,637,136	1,508,387	0	1,508,387
Fire	696,086	0	696,086	673,438	0	673,438
Transportation	742,239	0	742,239	566,019	0	566,019
Public Health Services	57,055	0	57,055	113,704	0	113,704
Leisure Time Activities	107,297	0	107,297	71,896	0	71,896
Community Environment	62,452	0	62,452	59,440	0	59,440
Basic Utility Services	3,713	0	3,713	0	0	0
Interest	21,125	0	21,125	17,973	0	17,973
Water	0	2,661,117	2,661,117	0	2,563,100	2,563,100
Sewer	0	1,617,636	1,617,636	0	1,455,589	1,455,589
Garbage	0	419,005	419,005	0	275,140	275,140
<i>Total Program Expenses</i>	<i>4,480,443</i>	<i>4,697,758</i>	<i>9,178,201</i>	<i>4,204,564</i>	<i>4,293,829</i>	<i>8,498,393</i>
Change in Net Position	328,562	(417,566)	(89,004)	735,782	3,403,958	4,139,740
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year as</i>						
<i>Previously Reported</i>	<i>9,897,817</i>	<i>16,339,404</i>	<i>26,237,221</i>	<i>9,162,035</i>	<i>12,935,446</i>	<i>22,097,481</i>
<i>Restatement (See Note 3)</i>	<i>(169,713)</i>	<i>(117,309)</i>	<i>(287,022)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Restated Net Position at Beginning</i>						
<i>of Year</i>	<i>9,728,104</i>	<i>16,222,095</i>	<i>25,950,199</i>	<i>9,162,035</i>	<i>12,935,446</i>	<i>22,097,481</i>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<i>\$10,056,666</i>	<i>\$15,804,529</i>	<i>\$25,861,195</i>	<i>\$9,897,817</i>	<i>\$16,339,404</i>	<i>\$26,237,221</i>

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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**New Accounting Pronouncement/Restatements**

Table 2 provides a summary of the City's change in net position for 2024 compared to 2023. The table also separately reflects the restatement for changes in accounting principles related to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections* does not require Management Discussion and Analysis information for years prior to periods presented in the basic financial statements to be restated for changes in accounting principle. The 2023 information does not reflect activity related to the additional compensated absences expenses required under GASB 101, *Compensated Absences*. (See also explanation of new accounting pronouncements provided related to Net Position - Table 1 and explanation provided in Note 3.)

***Governmental Activities***

Operating grants and contributions and capital grants and contributions accounted for 24.9 percent of total governmental revenues. Operating grants and contributions increased while capital grants and contributions decreased. Property taxes revenue provided 17.1 percent of total governmental revenues with an increase in 2024, and 32.3 percent was generated from income taxes with a decrease in 2024. Income taxes, property taxes, and unrestricted grants and entitlements combined, provided 54.5 percent of the City's total governmental revenues.

Charges for services and capital grants decreased due to the decline in accounts receivable and the decrease in grant funding specifically for capital assets. Revenues for operating grants and contributions increased, while investment earnings decreased.

The City's security of persons and property-police program accounted for the majority of the City's governmental expenses. This was a decrease from 2023 due to the spending of the police department being reduced.

***Business-Type Activities***

The City's business-type activities are for water, sewer, and garbage services. During 2024, expenses exceeded program revenues. In 2024 the salaries and contractual service expenses increased while revenues decreased due to the billing policies.

The minimum water rate is \$14.50 for the first one thousand gallons of water. Sewer fees are calculated on the amount of water used. The minimum sewer rate is \$21.82 per month. Garbage fees are assessed at a rate of \$16 per month for a one-yard container and varies for larger capacity containers.

**The City's Funds**

As noted earlier, the City uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds – The focus of the City's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in accessing the City's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance serves as a useful measure of the City's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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***General Fund***

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City. At the end of 2024, fund balance was \$1,054,205. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 31.4 percent of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 37.8 percent of that same amount.

***Other Major Governmental Funds***

The fund balances of the Fire Levy Special Revenue Fund increased in 2024. This increase is due to the increases in property taxes and charges for services. The City received more revenue in this fund in 2024 due to an increase in services provided by the Fire Department.

The fund balance of the County Sales Tax Fund decreased in 2024. In 2024 the City issued a loan in the amount of \$540,000 to purchase a new fire truck from this fund; this transaction did not impact the change in fund balance however. Intergovernmental revenues decreased in this fund, while expenses increased.

***Enterprise Funds***

The City's enterprise funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail.

The City's enterprise funds are the Water, Sewer, and Garbage Funds. The net position of all enterprise funds decreased from 2023. Construction in progress is expected to be completed soon causing a decrease in accounts payable, contracts payable, and retainage payable. OWDA loan balances have increased to continue the funding for these projects. Overall in the enterprise funds, the total revenues have decreased since last year while expenses increased causing the decrease in the net position.

**General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The City's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund. From time to time during the year, the fund's budget may be amended as needs or conditions change.

During the course of 2024, the City amended its budget several times, due to revenues being received in the middle of the year and revenues being reduced throughout the year. All recommendations for a budget change came from the City Auditor to the Finance Committee of Council for review before going to the whole Council for Ordinance enactment on the change.

Actual revenues exceeded final estimates. The original appropriations were increased in 2024; however, actual expenditures exceeded the final budget for expenditures. Even with revenues exceeding final estimates, actual spending was greater than revenues causing the City to deficit spend and decrease its General Fund balance.



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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**Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

***Capital Assets***

Total capital assets for the governmental activities, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, increased from the prior year as a result of additions of assets exceeding the depreciation/amortization. These additions include the new fire truck, paving of City streets, a police vehicle, police and fire equipment, curbs, fencing, and a canine for the police department.

Total capital assets for the business-type assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, increased from the prior year as a result of additions outpacing current year annual depreciation/amortization. These additions include waterline replacement and paving, HVAC update, land purchase, city garage roof, curbs, and storm drain repair.

Detailed information regarding capital asset activities debt is included in the notes to the financial statements. (See Note 10)

***Long-term Obligations***

As of December 31, 2024, long-term obligations include OPWC loans, OWDA loans, other loans, leases, net pension/OPEB liabilities, compensated absences, and an asset retirement obligation.

The City has loans for fire department renovations, fire trucks, a pumper truck, and air packs paid from the County Sales Tax and Fire Levy Special Revenue Funds. Long-term obligations paid by the Enterprise Funds include other loans, OPWC loans, OWDA loans, net pension/OPEB liabilities, compensated absences, and an asset retirement obligation.

Detailed information regarding long-term debt is included in the notes to the financial statements and as such, the 2023 long-term debt information above articulates to the January 1, 2024, restated amounts in Note 15 rather than the 2023 amounts presented in Table 1. (See Note 15)

**Current Issues**

The City continues to follow the policies that brought fiscal solvency and continues to look for new ways to improve efficiencies and services to the citizens of Wellston.

**Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide the City's citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the City's finances and to demonstrate the City's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report, please contact the City of Wellston Auditor's Office by calling (740)-384-2428 or by writing the City Auditor at 203 East Broadway, Wellston, Ohio 45692.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
December 31, 2024

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total*
<b>Assets</b>			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,903,152	\$4,394,279	\$6,297,431
Investments	2,632,283	0	2,632,283
Accrued Interest Receivable	13,952	0	13,952
Accounts Receivable	244,368	359,585	603,953
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Receivable	6,802	0	6,802
Intergovernmental Receivable	451,903	0	451,903
Income Taxes Receivable	472,310	0	472,310
Property Taxes Receivable	951,234	0	951,234
Loans Receivable	243,610	0	243,610
Leases Receivable	203,733	0	203,733
Prepaid Items	33,406	82,882	116,288
Materials and Supplies Inventory	11,657	64,725	76,382
Net OPEB Asset	27,542	78,387	105,929
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	1,502,475	6,085,785	7,588,260
Depreciable Capital Assets, net	6,209,577	11,298,232	17,507,809
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>14,908,004</u>	<u>22,363,875</u>	<u>37,271,879</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Pension	1,069,783	878,692	1,851,244
OPEB	140,312	68,776	204,922
Asset Retirement Obligation	0	72,622	72,622
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>1,210,095</u>	<u>1,020,090</u>	<u>2,128,788</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	44,301	63,404	107,705
Accrued Wages Payable	47,143	35,525	82,668
Contracts Payable	14,982	30,527	45,509
Intergovernmental Payable	45,544	18,725	64,269
Accrued Interest Payable	13,487	18,090	31,577
Accrued Vacation Leave Payable	33,091	38,552	71,643
Unearned Revenue	20,985	0	20,985
Refundable Deposits	0	328,143	328,143
Long-Term Liabilities:			
Due Within One Year	157,941	281,352	439,293
Due in More than One Year:			
Net Pension Liability	3,147,140	2,378,680	5,525,820
Net OPEB Liability	174,677	0	174,677
Other Amounts	1,069,600	4,336,315	5,405,915
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>4,768,891</u>	<u>7,529,313</u>	<u>12,298,204</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Property Taxes	705,543	0	705,543
Pension	208,026	76	110,871
OPEB	175,240	50,047	221,121
Leases	203,733	0	203,733
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>1,292,542</u>	<u>50,123</u>	<u>1,241,268</u>
<b>Net Position</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	6,733,952	13,067,328	19,801,280
Restricted for:			
Street Construction	374,742	0	374,742
Recreation	229,753	0	229,753
Police Protection	81,868	0	81,868
Fire Protection	206,773	0	206,773
Cemetery	59,216	0	59,216
Community Development	519,517	0	519,517
Capital Projects	2,493,758	0	2,493,758
Cemetery Perpetual Care	251,268	0	251,268
Unclaimed Monies	3,200	0	3,200
OPEB Plans	27,542	78,387	105,929
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(924,923)	2,658,814	1,733,891
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$10,056,666</u>	<u>\$15,804,529</u>	<u>\$25,861,195</u>

\*After deferred outflows and deferred inflows related to the change in internal proportionate share of pension and OPEB related items have been eliminated.

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Activities*  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

		Program Revenues		
			Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Capital Grants and Contributions
	Expenses	Charges for Services		
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
General Government	\$1,153,340	\$142,559	\$8,325	\$66,459
Security of Persons and Property:				
Police	1,637,136	14,221	18,331	21,731
Fire	696,086	366,887	117,297	0
Transportation	742,239	0	390,650	48,441
Public Health Services	57,055	32,020	28,962	0
Basic Utility Services	3,713	0	1,470	0
Leisure Time Activities	107,297	3,815	234,165	230,969
Community Environment	62,452	16,500	843	29,700
Interest	21,125	0	0	0
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<u>4,480,443</u>	<u>576,002</u>	<u>800,043</u>	<u>397,300</u>
<b>Business-Type Activities</b>				
Water	2,661,117	1,999,513	0	377,782
Sewer	1,617,636	1,488,497	0	0
Garbage	419,005	407,637	0	0
<i>Total Business-Type Activities</i>	<u>4,697,758</u>	<u>3,895,647</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>377,782</u>
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$9,178,201</u>	<u>\$4,471,649</u>	<u>\$800,043</u>	<u>\$775,082</u>

**General Revenues**

Property Taxes Levied for:

    General Purposes

    Fire Protection

    Cemetery

    Streets

Income Taxes Levied for General Purposes

Permissive Motor Vehicle License Taxes

Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs

Investment Earnings and Other Interest

Miscellaneous

*Total General Revenues*

*Change in Net Position*

*Net Position at Beginning of Year as Previously Reported*

*Change in Accounting Principle - See Note 3*

*Restated Net Position at Beginning of Year*

*Net Position End of Year*

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Net (Expense) Revenue  
and Changes in Net Position

Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
(\$935,997)	\$0	(\$935,997)
(\$1,582,853)	0	(1,582,853)
(\$211,902)	0	(211,902)
(\$303,148)	0	(303,148)
\$3,927	0	3,927
(\$2,243)	0	(2,243)
\$361,652	0	361,652
(\$15,409)	0	(15,409)
(21,125)	0	(21,125)
(2,707,098)	0	(2,707,098)
0	(283,822)	(283,822)
0	(129,139)	(129,139)
0	(11,368)	(11,368)
0	(424,329)	(424,329)
(2,707,098)	(424,329)	(3,131,427)
358,138	0	358,138
285,075	0	285,075
56,397	0	56,397
122,630	0	122,630
1,551,233	0	1,551,233
73,614	0	73,614
248,604	0	248,604
227,674	0	227,674
112,295	6,763	119,058
3,035,660	6,763	3,042,423
328,562	(417,566)	(89,004)
9,897,817	16,339,404	26,237,221
(169,713)	(117,309)	(287,022)
9,728,104	16,222,095	25,950,199
\$10,056,666	\$15,804,529	\$25,861,195

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Balance Sheet*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*December 31, 2024*

	General	Fire Levy	County Sales Tax	Permanent Investment	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>						
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$821,020	\$256,774	\$120,415	\$0	\$701,743	\$1,899,952
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,200	0	0	0	0	3,200
Investments	0	0	0	2,433,835	198,448	2,632,283
Receivables:						
Accrued Interest	13,405	0	0	0	547	13,952
Accounts	179,249	0	0	0	65,119	244,368
Interfund	35,006	0	0	0	0	35,006
Income Taxes	472,310	0	0	0	0	472,310
Property Taxes	396,386	334,411	0	0	220,437	951,234
Intergovernmental	140,745	13,505	114,711	0	182,942	451,903
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Taxes	0	0	0	0	6,802	6,802
Loans	0	0	0	0	243,610	243,610
Leases	203,733	0	0	0	0	203,733
Prepaid Items	15,910	307	0	0	17,189	33,406
Materials and Supplies Inventory	1,337	0	0	0	10,320	11,657
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$2,282,301</u>	<u>\$604,997</u>	<u>\$235,126</u>	<u>\$2,433,835</u>	<u>\$1,647,157</u>	<u>\$7,203,416</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Accounts Payable	\$16,009	\$9,696	\$13,594	\$0	\$5,002	\$44,301
Accrued Wages Payable	33,419	7,139	0	0	6,585	47,143
Contracts Payable	8,904	0	6,078	0	0	14,982
Unearned Revenue	0	0	0	0	20,985	20,985
Interfund Payable	0	0	0	0	35,006	35,006
Intergovernmental Payable	36,433	6,541	0	0	2,570	45,544
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>94,765</u>	<u>23,376</u>	<u>19,672</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>70,148</u>	<u>207,961</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>						
Property Taxes	294,006	248,036	0	0	163,501	705,543
Unavailable Revenue	635,592	99,880	60,845	0	246,517	1,042,834
Lease	203,733	0	0	0	0	203,733
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>1,133,331</u>	<u>347,916</u>	<u>60,845</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>410,018</u>	<u>1,952,110</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Nonspendable:						
Cemetery Perpetual Care	0	0	0	0	251,268	251,268
Inventories	1,337	0	0	0	10,320	11,657
Prepaid Items	15,910	307	0	0	17,189	33,406
Unclaimed Monies	3,200	0	0	0	0	3,200
Restricted for:						
Street Construction	0	0	0	0	218,985	218,985
Recreation	0	0	0	0	212,909	212,909
Police Protection	0	0	0	0	16,949	16,949
Fire Protection	0	233,398	0	0	0	233,398
Cemetery	0	0	0	0	37,209	37,209
Community Development	0	0	154,609	0	311,125	465,734
Capital Projects	0	0	0	2,433,835	59,923	2,493,758
Committed for:						
Community Development	0	0	0	0	66,120	66,120
Assigned to:						
Purchases on Order	54,324	0	0	0	0	54,324
Subsequent Year's Appropriations	103,734	0	0	0	0	103,734
Unassigned (Deficit)	875,700	0	0	0	(35,006)	840,694
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>1,054,205</u>	<u>233,705</u>	<u>154,609</u>	<u>2,433,835</u>	<u>1,166,991</u>	<u>5,043,345</u>
<i>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$2,282,301</u>	<u>\$604,997</u>	<u>\$235,126</u>	<u>\$2,433,835</u>	<u>\$1,647,157</u>	<u>\$7,203,416</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances  
to Net Position of Governmental Activities  
December 31, 2024*

<b>Total Governmental Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$5,043,345</b>
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*Amounts reported for governmental activities  
in the statement of net position are different  
because:*

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the funds.	7,712,052
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Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are not reported in the funds:

Delinquent Property Taxes	245,691	
Income Taxes	237,763	
Charges for Services	175,239	
Fines, Forfeitures and Settlements	64,919	
Intergovernmental Revenues	319,222	1,042,834

Leave benefits payable is recognized for earned benefits that are not expected to be paid with expendable available financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(33,091)
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The net pension liability and net OPEB asset/liability are not due and payable in the current period: therefore, the asset, liabilities, and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in governmental funds:

Net OPEB Asset	27,542	
Deferred Outflows - Pension	1,069,783	
Deferred Outflows - OPEB	140,312	
Net Pension Liability	(3,147,140)	
Deferred Inflows - Pension	(208,026)	
Deferred Inflows - OPEB	(175,240)	
Net OPEB Liability	(174,677)	(2,467,446)

Long-term liabilities and accrued interest that are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:

Long-Term Loans Payable	(962,506)	
Accrued Interest Payable	(13,487)	
Leases Payable	(612)	
Compensated Absences Payable	(264,423)	(1,241,028)

Net Position of Governmental Activities	<b>\$10,056,666</b>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	General	Fire Levy	County Sales Tax	Permanent Investment	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
Property Taxes	\$350,549	\$294,136	\$0	\$0	\$184,992	\$829,677
Income Taxes	1,677,330	0	0	0	0	1,677,330
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Taxes	0	0	0	0	73,614	73,614
Intergovernmental	250,278	22,723	258,961	0	846,386	1,378,348
Charges for Services	500	366,887	0	0	35,835	403,222
Fines, Forfeitures and Settlements	31,251	0	0	0	10,910	42,161
Licenses and Permits	46,110	0	0	0	0	46,110
Investment Earnings and Other Interest	227,674	0	0	0	20,649	248,323
Leases	11,052	0	0	0	0	11,052
Rent	55,180	0	0	0	16,500	71,680
Contributions and Donations	0	0	0	0	2,510	2,510
Miscellaneous	94,956	9,211	0	0	8,128	112,295
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>2,744,880</u>	<u>692,957</u>	<u>258,961</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,199,524</u>	<u>4,896,322</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Current:						
General Government	1,300,945	0	71,000	0	0	1,371,945
Security of Persons and Property:						
Police	1,490,938	0	97,536	0	23,248	1,611,722
Fire	0	536,436	541,475	0	13,139	1,091,050
Transportation	0	0	118,769	0	738,502	857,271
Public Health Services	0	0	18,738	0	93,683	112,421
Leisure Time Services	0	0	12,267	0	217,796	230,063
Community Environment	0	0	0	0	51,994	51,994
Basic Utility Services	0	0	0	0	3,713	3,713
Debt Service:						
Principal Retirement	604	4,086	58,828	0	0	63,518
Interest	18	2,224	14,804	0	0	17,046
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>2,792,505</u>	<u>542,746</u>	<u>933,417</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,142,075</u>	<u>5,410,743</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>	<u>(47,625)</u>	<u>150,211</u>	<u>(674,456)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>57,449</u>	<u>(514,421)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>						
Proceeds of Loans	0	0	540,000	0	0	540,000
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	<u>(47,625)</u>	<u>150,211</u>	<u>(134,456)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>57,449</u>	<u>25,579</u>
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year as Previously Reported</i>	<u>1,101,830</u>	<u>83,494</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,433,835</u>	<u>1,398,607</u>	<u>5,017,766</u>
<i>Change from Nonmajor Fund to Major Fund Adjustments - See Note 3</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>289,065</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(289,065)</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Adjusted Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>1,101,830</u>	<u>83,494</u>	<u>289,065</u>	<u>2,433,835</u>	<u>1,109,542</u>	<u>5,017,766</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$1,054,205</u>	<u>\$233,705</u>	<u>\$154,609</u>	<u>\$2,433,835</u>	<u>\$1,166,991</u>	<u>\$5,043,345</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes  
in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

**Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds** **\$25,579**

***Amounts reported for governmental activities in the  
statement of activities are different because:***

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense. This is the amount by which capital asset additions exceeded depreciation/amortization in the current period:

Capital Asset Additions	1,332,559	
Depreciation/Amortization	<u>(414,641)</u>	917,918

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds:

Delinquent Property Taxes	(7,437)	
Income Tax	(126,097)	
Charges for Services	14,116	
Fines, Forfeitures and Settlements	(12,339)	
Intergovernmental Revenues	<u>44,440</u>	(87,317)

Repayments of principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.

Leases Payable	604	
Loans Payable	<u>62,914</u>	63,518

In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding debt, whereas in governmental funds, interest is expended when due.

(4,079)

Loan Proceeds are other financing sources in the governmental funds, but the issuance increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net position:

Proceeds of Loan		(540,000)
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Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds:

Leave Benefits Payable	(36,059)	
Compensated Absences	<u>3469</u>	(32,590)

Contractually required contributions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds however, the Statement of Net Position reports these amounts as deferred outflows

Pension	249,155	
OPEB	<u>4,799</u>	253,954

Except for amounts reported as deferred inflows/outflows, changes in the net pension liability and net OPEB asset/liability are reported as pension and OPEB expense in the Statement of Activities

Pension	(269,775)	
OPEB	<u>1,354</u>	<u>(268,421)</u>

*Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities*

\$328,562

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes*  
*in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)*  
*General Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
<b>Revenues</b>				
Property Taxes	\$265,300	\$265,300	\$350,549	\$85,249
Income Taxes	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,564,145	64,145
Intergovernmental	131,600	131,600	249,542	117,942
Charges for Services	350	350	275	(75)
Fines, Forfeitures and Settlements	42,500	42,500	40,428	(2,072)
Licenses and Permits	50,000	50,000	46,110	(3,890)
Interest	91,000	91,000	222,704	131,704
Rent	85,100	85,100	71,776	(13,324)
Miscellaneous	46,928	46,928	91,452	44,524
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>2,212,778</u>	<u>2,212,778</u>	<u>2,636,981</u>	<u>424,203</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
General Government	1,233,183	1,281,502	1,358,661	(77,159)
Security of Persons and Property:				
Police	1,380,042	1,446,318	1,491,928	(45,610)
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	604	604	604	0
Interest	18	18	18	0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>2,613,847</u>	<u>2,728,442</u>	<u>2,851,211</u>	<u>(122,769)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(401,069)	(515,664)	(214,230)	301,434
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	977,805	977,805	977,805	0
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>37,743</u>	<u>37,743</u>	<u>37,743</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$614,479</u></u>	<u><u>\$499,884</u></u>	<u><u>\$801,318</u></u>	<u><u>\$301,434</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes*  
*in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)*  
*Fire Levy Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
<b>Revenues</b>				
Property Taxes	\$289,000	\$289,000	\$294,136	\$5,136
Intergovernmental	31,000	31,000	20,273	(10,727)
Charges for Services	183,100	183,100	366,887	183,787
Miscellaneous	0	0	9,211	9,211
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>503,100</u>	<u>503,100</u>	<u>690,507</u>	<u>187,407</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Security of Persons and Property:				
Fire	542,134	682,787	721,291	(38,504)
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	4,086	4,086	4,086	0
Interest	2,224	2,224	2,224	0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>548,444</u>	<u>689,097</u>	<u>727,601</u>	<u>(38,504)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(45,344)	(185,997)	(37,094)	148,903
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	92,467	92,467	92,467	0
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>4,701</u>	<u>4,701</u>	<u>4,701</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$51,824</u></u>	<u><u>(\$88,829)</u></u>	<u><u>\$60,074</u></u>	<u><u>\$148,903</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes*  
*in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)*  
*County Sales Tax Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Intergovernmental	<u>\$365,000</u>	<u>\$365,000</u>	<u>\$302,529</u>	<u>(62,471)</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
General Government	101,902	101,902	109,397	(7,495)
Security of Persons and Property:				
Police	90,854	90,854	97,536	(6,682)
Fire	1,374	1,374	1,475	(101)
Transportation	110,632	110,632	118,769	(8,137)
Public Health Services	17,454	17,454	18,738	(1,284)
Leisure Time Services	11,427	11,427	12,267	(840)
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	58,828	58,828	58,828	0
Interest	<u>14,804</u>	<u>14,804</u>	<u>14,804</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>407,275</u>	<u>407,275</u>	<u>431,814</u>	<u>(24,539)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(42,275)	(42,275)	(129,285)	(87,010)
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	148,386	148,386	148,386	0
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>52,124</u>	<u>52,124</u>	<u>52,124</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$158,235</u></u>	<u><u>\$158,235</u></u>	<u><u>\$71,225</u></u>	<u><u>(\$87,010)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Fund Net Position*  
*Enterprise Funds*  
*December 31, 2024*

	Water	Sewer	Nonmajor Enterprise Fund	Total Enterprise Funds
<b>Assets</b>				
Current:				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,191,984	\$2,398,347	\$475,805	\$4,066,136
Accounts Receivable	179,411	142,383	37,791	359,585
Prepaid Items	31,491	10,352	41,039	82,882
Materials and Supplies Inventory	61,197	3,528	0	64,725
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>1,464,083</u>	<u>2,554,610</u>	<u>554,635</u>	<u>4,573,328</u>
Noncurrent:				
Restricted Assets:				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	328,143	0	0	328,143
Net OPEB Asset	47,668	26,482	4,237	78,387
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	1,208,374	4,877,411	0	6,085,785
Depreciable Capital Assets, net	5,897,643	4,977,682	422,907	11,298,232
<i>Total Noncurrent Assets</i>	<u>7,481,828</u>	<u>9,881,575</u>	<u>427,144</u>	<u>17,790,547</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>8,945,911</u>	<u>12,436,185</u>	<u>981,779</u>	<u>22,363,875</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>				
Pension	568,118	275,294	69,679	913,091
OPEB	41,832	24,479	3,705	70,016
Asset Retirement Obligation	0	72,622	0	72,622
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>609,950</u>	<u>372,395</u>	<u>73,384</u>	<u>1,055,729</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Current Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable	23,803	31,667	7,934	63,404
Accrued Wages Payable	21,405	13,731	389	35,525
Contracts Payable	29,277	1,250	0	30,527
Intergovernmental Payable	12,164	5,661	900	18,725
Accrued Interest Payable	8,796	8,914	380	18,090
Accrued Vacation Leave Payable	21,146	14,167	3,239	38,552
OPWC Loans Payable	3,763	0	0	3,763
OWDA Loans Payable	41,087	0	0	41,087
Loans Payable	37,157	103,062	43,048	183,267
Compensated Absences Payable	18,877	11,441	2,851	33,169
Lease Payable	0	0	20,066	20,066
Customer Deposits Payable from Restricted Assets	328,143	0	0	328,143
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>545,618</u>	<u>189,893</u>	<u>78,807</u>	<u>814,318</u>
(Net of Current Portion):				
Long-Term Liabilities:				
OPWC Loans Payable	18,815	0	0	18,815
OWDA Loans Payable	1,970,030	654,764	0	2,624,794
Loans Payable	120,921	1,133,162	140,287	1,394,370
Compensated Absences Payable	74,546	44,415	13,375	132,336
Asset Retirement Obligation	0	166,000	0	166,000
Net Pension Liability	1,446,495	803,609	128,576	2,378,680
<i>Total Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<u>3,630,807</u>	<u>2,801,950</u>	<u>282,238</u>	<u>6,714,995</u>
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>4,176,425</u>	<u>2,991,843</u>	<u>361,045</u>	<u>7,529,313</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>				
Pension	15	22,966	11,494	34,475
OPEB	32,140	15,150	3,997	51,287
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>32,155</u>	<u>38,116</u>	<u>15,491</u>	<u>85,762</u>
<b>Net Position</b>				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	4,884,967	7,962,855	219,506	13,067,328
Restricted for OPEB Plans	47,668	26,482	4,237	78,387
Unrestricted	414,646	1,789,284	454,884	2,658,814
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$5,347,281</u>	<u>\$9,778,621</u>	<u>\$678,627</u>	<u>\$15,804,529</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position*  
*Enterprise Funds*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	Water	Sewer	Nonmajor Enterprise Fund	Total Enterprise Funds
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
Charges for Services	\$1,999,513	\$1,488,497	\$407,637	\$3,895,647
Other	5,776	0	987	6,763
<i>Total Operating Revenues</i>	<u>2,005,289</u>	<u>1,488,497</u>	<u>408,624</u>	<u>3,902,410</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Salaries and Wages	932,409	608,103	74,141	1,614,653
Fringe Benefits	376,750	247,185	22,063	645,998
Contractual Services	433,732	174,503	151,782	760,017
Materials and Supplies	645,825	346,493	42,561	1,034,879
Depreciation/Amortization	247,711	202,335	122,317	572,363
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<u>2,636,427</u>	<u>1,578,619</u>	<u>412,864</u>	<u>4,627,910</u>
<i>Operating Loss</i>	<u>(631,138)</u>	<u>(90,122)</u>	<u>(4,240)</u>	<u>(725,500)</u>
<b>Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</b>				
Capital Grants	377,782	0	0	377,782
Interest	(24,690)	(39,017)	(6,141)	(69,848)
<i>Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</i>	<u>353,092</u>	<u>(39,017)</u>	<u>(6,141)</u>	<u>307,934</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	<u>(278,046)</u>	<u>(129,139)</u>	<u>(10,381)</u>	<u>(417,566)</u>
<i>Net Position at Beginning of Year as Previously Reported</i>	5,689,454	9,947,381	702,569	16,339,404
<i>Change in Accounting Principle - See Note 3</i>	<u>(64,127)</u>	<u>(39,621)</u>	<u>(13,561)</u>	<u>(117,309)</u>
<i>Restated Net Position at Beginning of Year</i>	<u>5,625,327</u>	<u>9,907,760</u>	<u>689,008</u>	<u>16,222,095</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$5,347,281</u></u>	<u><u>\$9,778,621</u></u>	<u><u>\$678,627</u></u>	<u><u>\$15,804,529</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Enterprise Funds**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	Water	Sewer	Nonmajor Enterprise Fund	Total Enterprise Funds
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>				
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>				
Cash Received from Customers	\$2,127,904	\$1,599,134	\$442,659	\$4,169,697
Cash Payments for Employee Services and Benefits	(1,167,017)	(788,605)	(133,080)	(2,088,702)
Cash Payments for Goods and Services	(1,165,098)	(559,195)	(200,544)	(1,924,837)
Utility Deposits Received	40,600	0	0	40,600
Utility Deposits Returned	(31,749)	0	0	(31,749)
Other Operating Revenues	4,280	0	987	5,267
<i>Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities</i>	<u>(191,080)</u>	<u>251,334</u>	<u>110,022</u>	<u>170,276</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>				
Proceeds from OWDA Loans	996,383	654,764	0	1,651,147
Payments for Capital Acquisitions	(692,388)	(2,077,790)	(19,202)	(2,789,380)
Capital Grants	377,782	1,165,822	0	1,543,604
Principal Paid on OPWC Loans	(3,763)	0	0	(3,763)
Principal Paid on OWDA Loans	(771,853)	0	0	(771,853)
Principal Paid on Other Loans	(35,664)	(100,019)	(43,048)	(178,731)
Principal Paid on Leases	0	0	(26,406)	(26,406)
Interest Paid on Leases	0	0	(516)	(516)
Interest Paid on OWDA Loans	(17,294)	0	0	(17,294)
Interest Paid on Other Loans	(8,019)	(39,736)	(5,715)	(53,470)
<i>Net Cash Used for Capital and Related Financing Activities</i>	<u>(154,816)</u>	<u>(396,959)</u>	<u>(94,887)</u>	<u>(646,662)</u>
<i>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>	<u>(345,896)</u>	<u>(145,625)</u>	<u>15,135</u>	<u>(476,386)</u>
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year</i>	<u>1,866,023</u>	<u>2,543,972</u>	<u>460,670</u>	<u>4,870,665</u>
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$1,520,127</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,398,347</u></u>	<u><u>\$475,805</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,394,279</u></u>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities</b>				
Operating Loss	(\$631,138)	(\$90,122)	(\$4,240)	(\$725,500)
Adjustments:				
Depreciation/Amortization	247,711	202,335	122,317	572,363
(Increase) Decrease in Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources:				
Accounts Receivable	126,895	110,637	35,022	272,554
Prepaid Items	(2,518)	10,631	(39,227)	(31,114)
Materials and Supplies Inventory	(802)	1,766	0	964
Net OPEB Asset	8,213	4,656	708	13,577
Deferred Outflows - Pension	284,144	150,082	43,052	477,278
Deferred Outflows - OPEB	53,170	30,999	5,870	90,039
Deferred Outflows - Asset Retirement Obligations	0	2,754	0	2,754
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources:				
Accounts Payable	(85,418)	(40,816)	(6,201)	(132,435)
Accrued Wages Payable	9,053	5,332	120	14,505
Accrued Vacation Payable	1,643	(15,548)	368	(13,537)
Intergovernmental Payable	(3,731)	(7,231)	(853)	(11,815)
Customer Deposits Payable	8,851	0	0	8,851
Compensated Absences Payable	6,845	3,901	1,138	11,884
Net Pension Liability	118,331	80,831	6,369	205,531
Deferred Inflows - Pension	(262,526)	(161,825)	(47,405)	(471,756)
Deferred Inflows - OPEB	(69,803)	(37,048)	(7,016)	(113,867)
<i>Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>(\$191,080)</u></u>	<u><u>\$251,334</u></u>	<u><u>\$110,022</u></u>	<u><u>\$170,276</u></u>

**Noncash Transactions:**

At December 31, 2023, the City had contracts payable related to the purchase of capital assets of \$255,231 in the Water Fund.  
At December 31, 2023, the City had contracts payable related to the purchase of capital assets of \$1,840,287 in the Sewer Fund.  
At December 31, 2023, the City had retainage payable related to the purchase of capital assets of \$60,423 in the Sewer Fund.  
At December 31, 2024, the City had contracts payable related to the purchase of capital assets of \$29,277 in the Water Fund.  
At December 31, 2024, the City had contracts payable related to the purchase of capital assets of \$1,250 in the Sewer Fund.

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Statement of Fiduciary Net Position*  
*Custodial Funds*  
*December 31, 2024*

**Assets**

Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u><u>\$24,196</u></u>
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**Net Position**

Restricted for Individuals, Organizations and Other Governments	<u><u>\$24,196</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY**

The City of Wellston (the City) is a body politic, incorporated and established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the laws of the State of Ohio. The City was founded in 1873.

The Mayor, Auditor, Law Director, and Treasurer are each elected to four-year terms. A seven-member Council, plus a Council President are elected to two-year terms. Department directors and public members of various boards and commissions are appointed by the Mayor or Council.

**Reporting Entity**

The financial reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure the financial statements of the City are not misleading. The primary government consists of all funds and departments that are not legally separate from the City. Services provided by the primary government include police and fire protection, street maintenance and repairs, community development, parks and recreation, water, sewer, and garbage services. Staff provides support (i.e., payroll processing, accounts payable, revenue collection) to the service providers. The operation and control of these activities is provided by the City Council through the budgetary process and by the City Auditor and the City Mayor through administrative and managerial requirements and procedures.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the City is financially accountable. The City is financially accountable for an organization if the City appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the City is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the City is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the City is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the City is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the City in that the City approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes, and there is potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the primary government. No potential component units met these criteria.

The City is involved with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA), which is defined as a jointly governed organization and is presented in Note 20.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the City of Wellston have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the City's accounting policies are described below.

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The City's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the City as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The statements distinguish between those activities of the City that are governmental and those that are considered business-type activities.

The statement of net position presents the financial condition of the governmental and business-type activities of the City. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program; grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program; and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the City, with certain limited expectations. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each business segment or governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the City.

**Fund Financial Statements**

During the year, the City segregates transactions related to certain City functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the City at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental and enterprise fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Custodial funds are reported by type.

**B. Fund Accounting**

The City 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. There are three categories of funds: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary.

**Governmental Funds**

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the City are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities and deferred inflows is reported as fund balance. The following are the City's major governmental funds:

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

**Fire Levy Fund** - The Fire Levy Special Revenue Fund is used to account for property tax revenues and billings for the operation of the Wellston Fire Department.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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County Sales Tax – The County Sales Tax Special Revenue Fund is used to account for sales tax received from the Jackson County Auditor.

Permanent Investment Fund – The Permanent Investment Capital Projects Fund is used to account for proceeds from the sale of the City’s electric plant. Per local ordinance, these proceeds may only be used for capital expenditures.

The other governmental funds of the City account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows. Proprietary funds are classified as either enterprise or internal service. The City’s proprietary funds are all classified as enterprise funds. Enterprise funds may be used to account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. The City’s Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds are major funds while the Garbage Enterprise Fund is nonmajor.

Water Fund - The Water Fund is used to account for the revenues generated from the charges for distribution of water to the residential and commercial users within the City.

Sewer Fund - The Sewer Fund is used to account for the revenues generated from the charges for sanitary sewer services provided to the residential and commercial users within the City.

Nonmajor Garbage Fund - The Nonmajor Garbage Fund is used to account for the revenues generated from the charges for garbage removal services provided to the residential and commercial users within the City.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. There are four categories of fiduciary funds; pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the City under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the City’s own programs. The City’s only fiduciary funds are custodial funds. The City’s custodial funds account for monies held for police and fire auxiliary organizations.

C. Measurement Focus

Government-wide Financial Statements - The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of the City are included on the statement of net position. The statement of activities accounts for increases (i.e. revenues) and decreases (i.e. expenditures) in total net position.

Fund Financial Statements - All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and deferred outflows of resources and current liabilities and deferred inflows generally are included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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financial statements are prepared. Therefore, governmental fund financial statements include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Like the government-wide statements, all proprietary and fiduciary funds are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of these funds are included on the statement of fund net position. In fiduciary funds, a liability to the beneficiaries of fiduciary activity is recognized when an event has occurred that compels the government to disburse fiduciary resources. Fiduciary fund liabilities other than those to beneficiaries are recognized using the economic resources measurement focus.

For proprietary funds, the statement of changes in fund net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the City finances and meets the cash flow needs of its proprietary activities.

Fiduciary funds present a statement of changes in fiduciary net position which reports additions to and deductions from custodial funds.

#### D. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements and the statements presented for proprietary and fiduciary funds are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the accrual and modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, in the recording of deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

#### Revenues – Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on an accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current year. For the City, available means expected to be received within sixty days of year end.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the City received value without directly giving equal value in return, includes income taxes, property taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from income taxes is recognized in the period in which the taxable income is earned. Revenue from property taxes is recognized in the period in which taxes are levied. Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the City must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the City on a reimbursable basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from non-exchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue resources are considered to be both measurable and available at year end: investment earnings and other interest, federal and state grant subsidies, state-levied local shared taxes (including motor vehicle license fees and gasoline taxes), income taxes, fees, and rent.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the City, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the government-wide statement of net position for asset retirement obligations, pension, and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to asset retirement obligations is originally measured at the amount of the corresponding liability. This amount is expensed in a systematic and rational manner over the tangible asset's useful life. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB are explained in Notes 11 and 12.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. For the City, deferred inflows of resources include property taxes, pension, OPEB, leases, and unavailable revenue. Property taxes represent amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of December 31, 2023, but which were levied to finance 2024 operations. These amounts have been recorded as a deferred inflow on both the government-wide statement of net position and the governmental fund financial statements. The deferred inflow for leases is related to leases receivable and is being recognized as lease revenue in a systematic and rational manner over the term of the lease. Unavailable revenue is reported only on the governmental funds balance sheet and represents receivables which will not be collected within the available period. For the City, unavailable revenue includes delinquent property taxes; income taxes; charges for services; fines, forfeitures and settlements; and intergovernmental revenues. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. The details of these unavailable revenues are identified on the Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Position of Governmental Activities found on page 15. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are reported on the government-wide statement of net position. (See Notes 11 and 12)

Expenses/Expenditures

On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

E. Budgetary Process

All funds, other than custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolutions, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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amount the City Council may appropriate. The appropriations resolution is the City Council's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on the expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the City Council. The legal level of budgetary control is at the object level within each department. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the City Council. Advances between funds are not required to be budgeted.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the City Auditor. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificate of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were adopted by City Council.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the first appropriation resolution for the fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by City Council during the year.

#### F. Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the City is pooled. Monies for all funds, except for the Permanent Investment Capital Projects Fund and a portion of the Cemetery Perpetual Care Permanent Fund, are maintained in this pool. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents."

During 2024, investments were limited to certificates of deposit, which are reported at cost.

Investment procedures are restricted by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. Investment earnings and other interest revenue credited to the General Fund during 2024 amounted to \$227,674, which includes \$204,728 assigned from other City funds.

Investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase and investments of the cash management pool are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents.

#### G. Receivables and Payables

Receivables and payables are recorded on the City's financial statements to the extent that the amounts are determined to be material and are substantiated not only by supporting documentation, but also, by a reasonable, systematic method of determining their existence, completeness, valuation and, in the case of receivables, collectability.

#### H. Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either externally imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted assets in the General Fund represent money set aside for unclaimed monies. Restricted assets in the Enterprise Fund represents customer deposits and amounts held in trust by the pension and OPEB plans for future benefits.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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**I. Inventory**

Inventories are presented at cost on a first-in, first-out basis and are expensed/expended when used. Inventory consists of materials and supplies held for consumption.

**J. Prepaid Items**

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond December 31, 2024, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method by recording a current asset for the prepaid amount and reflecting the expenditure/expense in the year in which services are consumed.

**K. Capital Assets**

General capital assets are those assets not specifically related to activities reported in the proprietary funds. These assets generally result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities' columns of the government-wide statement of net position but are not reported in the fund financial statements. Capital assets utilized by the enterprise funds are reported both in the business-type activities column of the government-wide statement of net position and in the funds.

All capital assets (except for intangible right-to-use lease assets which are discussed below) are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Governmental activities' infrastructure amounts represent capital asset purchases made since January 1, 2004. The City has elected not to retroactively report governmental activities' infrastructure. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The City maintains a capitalization threshold of ten thousand dollars. Improvements are capitalized; the costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not capitalized.

All reported capital assets are depreciated except for land and construction in progress. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Useful lives for infrastructure were estimated based on the City's historical records of necessary improvements and replacement. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities
	Estimated Lives	Estimated Lives
Land Improvements	20 years	10 years
Buildings and Improvements	20-40 years	20-40 years
Furniture and Equipment	15 years	15 years
Vehicles	5-25 years	5-25 years
Infrastructure	15 years	70 years

The City is reporting intangible right to use assets related to lease assets. The lease assets include equipment and represent nonfinancial assets which are being utilized for a period of time through leases from another entity. These intangible right to use lease assets are being amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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**L. Compensated Absences**

For the City, compensated absences includes leave for which employees may receive cash payments when the leave is used for time off or receive cash payments for unused leave upon termination of employment. These payments could occur during employment or upon termination of employment. Compensated absences generally do not have a set payment schedule. The City does not offer noncash settlements. The City uses a first-in first-out flow assumption for compensated absences.

Liabilities should be recognized for leave that has not been used if the leave is attributable to services already rendered, the leave accumulates and is allowed to be carried over to subsequent years, and the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash. For the City, this leave includes sick and vacation time. However, the City also has certain compensated absences that are dependent upon the occurrence of a sporadic events that affects a relatively small proportion of employees. A liability for these types of leave is recognized when the leave commences. For the City this type of leave includes bereavement leave, military leave, personal leave, on-the-job injury leave, and court leave. Holiday leave taken on a specific date, not at the discretion of the employee is recognized as a liability when used. The liability for compensated absences includes salary-related payments, where applicable.

The City records a liability for all accumulated unused vacation time when earned for all employees with more than one year of service. Since the City's policy limits the accrual of vacation time to the amount accrued in one year, the outstanding liability is recorded as "accrued vacation leave payable" on the statement of net position rather than as a long-term liability.

Liabilities for compensated absences are recognized in financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus for leave that has not been used and leave that has been used but not yet paid or settled.

On governmental fund financial statements, compensated absences are recognized as a liability and expenditure to the extent payments come due each period upon the occurrence of employee resignations and retirements.

**M. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations**

The City reports all payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations in the government-wide financial statements and it reports all payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations payable from proprietary funds in the proprietary fund financial statements.

In general, the City reports governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources, as obligations of the funds. However, claims and judgments and compensated absences that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that these liabilities come due for payment during the current year. Net pension/OPEB liability should be recognized in the governmental funds to the extent that benefit payments are due and payable and the pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is not sufficient for payment of those benefits. Long-term loans and leases are recognized as a liability in the governmental fund financial statements when due.

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**N. Fund Balance**

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the City is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

***Nonspendable*** The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of interfund loans, prepaids, as well as inventory, unless the use of the collection of the loans, or from the use of the prepaids and inventory, is restricted, committed, or assigned. Nonspendable fund balance in the general fund includes unclaimed monies legally required to be maintained until the end of a five-year holding period offset by any estimated liability for payments to claimants.

***Restricted*** Fund balance is reported as 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 or enabling legislation (City Ordinances).

Enabling legislation authorizes the City to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandates payment of resources (from external resource providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation. Legal enforceability means that the City can be compelled by an external party-such as citizens, public interest groups, or the judiciary to use resources created by enabling legislation only for the purposes specified by the legislation.

***Committed*** The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (ordinance or resolution) of City Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless City Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (ordinance or resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. In contrast to fund balance that is restricted by enabling legislation, the committed fund balance classification may be redeployed for other purposes with appropriate due process. Constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by City Council, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue; therefore, compliance with these constraints are not considered to be legally enforceable. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

***Assigned*** Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the City for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by City Council or a City official delegated that authority by City Charter or ordinance, or by State Statute. The City Council assigned fund balance to cover the gap between the estimated resources and appropriations in the 2025’s appropriated budget.



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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***Unassigned*** Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The City 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.

**O. Net Position**

Net position represents the difference between all other elements in a statement of financial position. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the constitutional provisions or through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Restricted net position for unclaimed monies represents amounts required to be maintained until the end of a five-year holding period offset by any estimated liability for payments to claimants. Restricted net position for OPEB plans represent the corresponding restricted asset amounts held in trust by the OPEB plans for future benefits.

The City applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available.

**P. Internal Activity**

Transfers between governmental and business-type activities on the government-wide statements are reported in the same manner as general revenues. Transfers within governmental activities are eliminated. Internal allocations of overhead expenses from one program to another or within the same program are eliminated on the Statement of Activities. Payments for interfund services provided and used are not eliminated.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses in the purchaser fund. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment should be reported as internal transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds and after non-operating revenues/expenses in proprietary funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular expenditures/expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the fund financial statements.

**Q. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB asset/liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions/OPEB, and pension/OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**R. Unearned Revenue**

Unearned revenue arises when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied. The City recognizes unearned revenue for intergovernmental revenue from grants received before the eligibility requirements are met.

**S. Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

**T. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary funds. For the City, these revenues are charges for services for sewer, water, and garbage utility services. Operating expenses are necessary costs that have been incurred in order to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the fund. Revenues and expenses not meeting the definition are reported as nonoperating.

**U. Extraordinary and Special Items**

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the City that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence.

**V. Reclassifications**

Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the presentation in the current year financial statements.

**W. Capital Contributions**

Contributions of capital arise from outside contributions of capital assets, grants used for principal forgiveness, or from grants or outside contributions of resources restricted to capital acquisition and construction.

**X. Leases**

The City serves as both lessee and lessor in various noncancellable leases which are accounted for as follows:

***Lessee*** At the commencement of a lease, the City initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the useful life of the underlying asset. Lease assets are reported

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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with other capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term debt on the statement of net position.

**Lessor** At the commencement of a lease, the City initially measures the lease receivable at the present value of payments expected to be received during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease receivable is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments received. The deferred inflow of resources is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease receivable, adjusted for lease payments received at or before the lease commencement date. Subsequently, the deferred inflow of resources is recognized as revenue over the life of the lease term.

**NOTE 3 - CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE AND RESTATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

***Change in Accounting Principles***

For 2024, the City implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, and related guidance from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2023-1, *Implementation Guidance Update — 2023*. The City also implemented Question 5.1 from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, *Implementation Guidance Update — 2021* and GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*.

GASB 100 will improve the clarity of the accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections, which will result in greater consistency in application in practice. In turn, more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information will be provided to financial statement users for making decisions or assessing accountability. In addition, the display and note disclosure requirements will result in more consistent, decision-useful, understandable, and comprehensive information for users about accounting changes and error corrections.

Question 5.1 from Implementation Guide 2021-1 addresses the collective significance of applying the capitalization threshold to individual items in a group of assets. The City reviewed its capital asset groupings and determined there were no asset groups where individually the assets were under the capitalization threshold yet were significant collectively.

The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 and GASB Implementation Guides 2021-1 and 2023-1 did not have any effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

GASB 101 will result in a liability for compensated absences that more appropriately reflects when a government incurs an obligation. In addition, the model can be applied consistently to any type of compensated absence and will eliminate potential comparability issues between governments that offer different types of leave. The effects of implementing the GASB pronouncement is shown on the table on the following page.

**Changes to or within the Financial Reporting Entity**

For fiscal year 2024, the County Sales Tax Special Revenue Fund presentation was adjusted from nonmajor to major due to meeting the quantitative threshold for a major fund. This change is separately displayed in the financial statements.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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***Restatement of Fund Balances and Net Position***

The City's financial statements report compensated absences by identifying vacation benefits payable separately from the remainder of the compensated absences liability. The compensated absences restatement includes vacation benefits payable of \$36,560 for governmental activities and \$52,089 for business type activities (\$19,503 water enterprise fund, \$29,715 sewer enterprise fund, and \$2,871 non-major enterprise fund) and compensated absences payable amounts of \$133,153 for governmental activities and \$65,220 for business type activities (\$44,624 water enterprise fund, \$9,906 sewer enterprise fund, and \$10,690 non-major enterprise fund.)

For the City, GASB Statement No. 101 increased the compensated absences liability and the cumulative effects of compensated absence related expense on beginning net position as shown on the following table. The City's accounting changes within the financial reporting entity and its change in accounting principle to adopt GASB 101 are presented on the following table:

		<b>Changes within the Financial Reporting Entity</b>	<b>Change in Accounting Principles</b>	
	<b>12/31/2023 As Previously Reported</b>	<b>Changes from Other Governmental Funds to Major</b>	<b>GASB 101</b>	<b>12/31/2023 As Adjusted/ Restated</b>
<b>Government-Wide</b>				
Governmental Activities	\$9,897,817	\$0	(\$169,713)	\$9,728,104
Business-Type Activities	16,339,404	0	(117,309)	16,222,095
<b>Total Primary Government</b>	<u>\$26,237,221</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$287,022)</u>	<u>\$25,950,199</u>
<b>Governmental Funds</b>				
Major Funds:				
General	\$1,101,830	\$0	\$0	\$1,101,830
Fire Levy	83,494	0	0	83,494
County Sales Tax	-	289,065	0	289,065
Permanent Improvement	2,433,835	0	0	2,433,835
All Other Governmental Funds	1,398,607	(289,065)	0	1,109,542
<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>	<u>\$5,017,766</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,017,766</u>
<b>Enterprise Funds</b>				
Water	\$5,689,454	\$0	(\$64,127)	\$5,625,327
Sewer	9,947,381	0	(39,621)	9,907,760
Nonmajor Enterprise	702,569	0	(13,561)	689,008
<b>Total Enterprise Net Position</b>	<u>\$16,339,404</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$117,309)</u>	<u>\$16,222,095</u>

**NOTE 4 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

While reporting financial position, results of operations, and changes in fund balance on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis, as provided by law, is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statements of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Budget and Actual (Budget Basis) is presented for the General Fund and the major special revenue fund on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

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The major differences between the budget basis and the GAAP basis are that:

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
3. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as expenditures (budget basis) rather than as committed or assigned fund balance (GAAP basis).
4. Unrecorded cash is reported on the balance sheet (GAAP) but not on the budgetary basis.
5. Prepaid items are reported on the balance sheet (GAAP basis), but not on the budgetary basis.

The adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations for the year on the GAAP basis to the budget basis are as follows:

Net Change in Fund Balances			
	General	Fire Levy	County Sales Tax
GAAP Basis	(\$47,625)	\$150,211	(\$134,456)
Net Adjustment for Revenue Accruals	(106,823)	0	(496,432)
Net Adjustment for Expenditure Accruals	(21,680)	5,363	550,793
Beginning of Year:			
Prepaid Items	35,716	4,339	0
End of Year:			
Unreported Cash	(1,076)	(2,450)	0
Prepaid Items	(15,910)	(307)	0
Encumbrances	(56,832)	(194,250)	(49,190)
Budget Basis	<u>(\$214,230)</u>	<u>(\$37,094)</u>	<u>(\$129,285)</u>

**NOTE 5 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

Active deposits are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the City treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the City treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that Council has identified as not required for use within the current five-year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use, but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts including passbook accounts.

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Protection of the City's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions participation in 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.

Interim monies held by the City can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including, but not limited to, Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
4. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
5. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and, with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
6. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met; and
7. Written repurchase agreements in the securities described in (1) or (2) provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the City and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the City and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

At year end, the City had \$19,861 in undeposited cash on hand which is included as part of "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents".

**NOTE 6 - PROPERTY TAXES**

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the City. Property tax revenue received during 2024 for real and public utility property taxes represents collections of 2023 taxes.

2024 real property taxes are levied after October 1, 2024, on the assessed value as of January 1, 2024, the lien date. Assessed values are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. 2024 real property taxes are collected in and intended to finance 2025.

Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits later payment dates to be established.

Public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value; public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value. 2024 public utility property taxes which became a lien December 31, 2023, are levied after October 1, 2024, and are collected in 2025 with real property taxes.

The full tax rate for all City operations for the year ended December 31, 2024, was \$11.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The assessed values of real property and public utility tangible property upon which 2024 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

Real Property	\$79,068,870
Public Utility Real Property	58,130
Public Utility Personal Property	<u>8,606,840</u>
Total	<u><u>\$87,733,840</u></u>

The County Treasurer collects property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts in the county, including the City. The County Auditor periodically remits to the City its portion of the taxes collected. Property taxes receivable represents real property and public utility taxes and outstanding delinquencies which are measurable as of December 31, 2024, and for which there is an enforceable legal claim. In governmental funds, the portion of the receivable not levied to finance 2024 operations is offset to deferred inflows of resources - property taxes. On the accrual basis, collectible delinquent property taxes have been recorded as a receivable and revenue while on the modified accrual basis the revenue has been reported as deferred inflows of resources - unavailable revenue.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**NOTE 7 - TAX ABATEMENTS**

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5709, the City established two Enterprise Zone property tax abatements to encourage new investment. Abatements are obtained through application by the property owner, including proof that the improvements have been made, and equal a percent of the additional property tax resulting from the increase in assessed value as a result of the improvement. The amount of the abatement is deducted from the recipient's tax bill.

The City of Wellston has entered into an enterprise zone agreement with General Mills. This agreement is for the construction of warehouse space. The abatement agreement is for 75 percent of the expansion value in exchange for job creation. In the event of default of the agreement terms, the City may require the repayment of the amount of taxes that would have been payable had the property not been exempted from taxation under this agreement.

Below is the information relevant to the disclosure of those programs for the year ended December 31, 2024.

<u>Tax Abatement Program</u>	<u>Amount of 2024 Taxes Abated</u>
<i>Enterprise Zone Tax Exemptions</i>	
General Mills Warehouse Space	\$22,228

**NOTE 8 - INCOME TAX**

The City levies a municipal income tax of one percent on substantially all income earned within the City. In addition, the residents of the City are required to pay income tax on income earned outside of the City; however, the City allows a credit for income taxes paid to another municipality.

Employers within the City are required to withhold income tax on employee compensation and remit the tax to the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA, the City's third-party administrator) quarterly. Corporations and other individual taxpayers are required to pay their estimated tax quarterly and file a declaration semi-annually.

Income tax proceeds are to be used for the purposes of general municipal operations, maintenance of facilities, new equipment, extension and enlargement of municipal services and facilities and capital improvements of the City of Wellston. In 2024, all proceeds were receipted into the General Fund.

The Regional Income Tax Agency administers and collects income taxes for the City. Payments are remitted monthly net of collection fees of approximately 1.0 percent.

**NOTE 9 - RECEIVABLES**

Receivables at December 31, 2024, consisted of property and income taxes; Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax; accrued interest; loans; intergovernmental receivables arising from grants, entitlements, and shared revenues; leases, and accounts (billings for user charged services and Opioid settlement monies). All receivables are considered fully collectible. Delinquent utility accounts receivable (billings for user charged services) are certified and collected as special assessments, subject to foreclosure for nonpayment. The financial statements reflect loans receivable of \$243,610 for principal owed to the City for Community Development Block Grant and Urban Development Action Grant revolving loan monies loaned to businesses for improvement and expansion efforts. All receivables are expected to be collected within one



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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year, with the exception of leases and delinquent property taxes. Property taxes, although ultimately collectible, includes some portion of delinquencies that will not be collected within one year in the amount of \$245,691.

A summary of intergovernmental receivables follows:

<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	
Gasoline Tax	\$147,971
Sales Tax	114,711
H2Ohio-River Grant	66,459
Local Government Subsidies	57,043
Homestead and Rollback	38,416
Motor Vehicle License Tax	26,068
Miscellaneous	1,235
Total Intergovernmental Receivable	<u>\$451,903</u>

***Leases Receivable***

The City is reporting leases receivable of \$203,733 in the General Fund at December 31, 2024. These amounts represent the discounted future lease payments. This discount is being amortized using the interest method. For 2024, the City recognized lease revenue of \$11,052 and interest revenue of \$5,544 in the General Fund related to lease payments received. These lease revenue amounts exclude short-term leases. A description of the City's leasing arrangements is as follows:

*Land Lease* - The City has entered into a lease with Acorn Development Inc. for the lease of land.

*Cell Tower Lease* – The City has entered into two lease agreements for a cell tower with Alltel, which later was renamed American Tower with the following terms:

Company	Lease Commencement Date	Years	Lease Ending Date	Payment Method
Alltel - American Tower	2023	12	2035	Monthly
Acorn Development Inc.	1987	50	2037	Monthly

A summary of future lease revenue is as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$11,335	\$5,261
2026	11,627	4,969
2027	12,811	4,660
2028	14,348	4,298
2029	14,782	3,914
2030-2034	85,445	13,175
2035-2038	53,385	1,858
	<u>\$203,733</u>	<u>\$38,135</u>

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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***Opioid Settlement Monies***

During 2021, Ohio reached an agreement with the three largest distributors of opioids. Subsequently, settlements have been reached with other distributors. As contingencies related to timing and measurement are resolved, a receivable will be reported in accompanying financial statements as a part of accounts receivable. As a participating subdivision, the City reported \$64,919 as an account receivable related to opioid settlement monies in the OneOhio Special Revenue Fund in the accompanying financial statements. Collections of these settlement monies are expected to extend through 2038 with none expected to be collected within one year of the date of the financial statements.

**NOTE 10 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2024, was as follows:

	Balance 12/31/2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/2024
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
<b><i>Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i></b>				
Land	\$1,239,010	\$5,105	\$0	\$1,244,115
Construction in Progress	39,613	218,747	0	258,360
<i>Total Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i>	<u>1,278,623</u>	<u>223,852</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,502,475</u>
<b><i>Depreciable Capital Assets</i></b>				
<b><i>Tangible Assets</i></b>				
Land Improvements	2,003,854	97,665	0	2,101,519
Buildings and Improvements	2,145,969	7,583	0	2,153,552
Furniture and Equipment	1,042,512	169,996	0	1,212,508
Vehicles	2,195,295	569,350	0	2,764,645
Infrastructure	2,417,047	264,113	0	2,681,160
<i>Total Tangible Assets</i>	<u>9,804,677</u>	<u>1,108,707</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,913,384</u>
<b><i>Intangible Right to Use Lease Assets</i></b>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	1,810	0	0	1,810
<i>Total Depreciable Capital Assets</i>	<u>9,806,487</u>	<u>1,108,707</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,915,194</u>
<b><i>Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</i></b>				
<b><i>Depreciation</i></b>				
Land Improvements	(330,193)	(66,444)	0	(396,637)
Buildings and Improvements	(736,650)	(55,991)	0	(792,641)
Furniture and Equipment	(406,758)	(71,040)	0	(477,798)
Vehicles	(1,612,406)	(116,589)	0	(1,728,995)
Infrastructure	(1,204,375)	(103,973)	0	(1,308,348)
<i>Total Depreciation</i>	<u>(4,290,382)</u>	<u>(414,037)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,704,419)</u>
<b><i>Amortization</i></b>				
<b><i>Intangible Right to Use Lease Assets</i></b>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	(594)	(604)	0	(1,198)
<i>Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</i>	<u>(4,290,976)</u>	<u>(414,641)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,705,617)</u>
<i>Total Depreciable Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>5,515,511</u>	<u>694,066</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,209,577</u>
<i>Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>\$6,794,134</u>	<u>\$917,918</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$7,712,052</u>

Depreciation/Amortization expense was charged to governmental activities as follows:

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	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Amortization</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Government	\$12,150	\$0	\$12,150
Security of Persons and Property			
Police	34,464	604	35,068
Fire	103,651	0	103,651
Public Health and Welfare	6,044	0	6,044
Leisure Time Activities	72,758	0	72,758
Community Development	40,158	0	40,158
Transportation	144,812	0	144,812
Total	<u>\$414,037</u>	<u>\$604</u>	<u>\$414,641</u>

  

	<u>Balance</u>			<u>Balance</u>
	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>12/31/2024</u>
<b>Business-Type Activities</b>				
<b><i>Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i></b>				
Land	\$678,260	\$10,210	\$0	\$688,470
Construction in Progress	4,970,242	427,073	0	5,397,315
<i>Total Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i>	<u>5,648,502</u>	<u>437,283</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,085,785</u>
<b><i>Depreciable Capital Assets</i></b>				
<b><i>Tangible Assets</i></b>				
Land Improvements	63,848	6,911	0	70,759
Buildings and Improvements	5,778,656	30,167	0	5,808,823
Furniture and Equipment	2,247,441	0	0	2,247,441
Vehicles	1,575,124	38,405	0	1,613,529
Infrastructure	13,073,724	151,200	0	13,224,924
<i>Total Tangible Assets</i>	<u>22,738,793</u>	<u>226,683</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22,965,476</u>
<b><i>Intangible Right to Use</i></b>				
<b><i>Lease Assets</i></b>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	98,112	0	0	98,112
<i>Total Depreciable Capital Assets</i>	<u>22,836,905</u>	<u>226,683</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23,063,588</u>
<b><i>Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</i></b>				
<b><i>Depreciation</i></b>				
Land Improvements	(63,848)	(346)	0	(64,194)
Buildings and Improvements	(3,700,471)	(125,232)	0	(3,825,703)
Furniture and Equipment	(1,507,778)	(76,641)	0	(1,584,419)
Vehicles	(730,274)	(154,189)	0	(884,463)
Infrastructure	(5,138,982)	(189,549)	0	(5,328,531)
<i>Total Depreciation</i>	<u>(11,141,353)</u>	<u>(545,957)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(11,687,310)</u>
<b><i>Amortization</i></b>				
<b><i>Intangible Right to Use</i></b>				
<b><i>Lease Assets</i></b>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	(51,640)	(26,406)	0	(78,046)
<i>Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</i>	<u>(11,192,993)</u>	<u>(572,363)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(11,765,356)</u>
<i>Total Depreciable Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>11,643,912</u>	<u>(345,680)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,298,232</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>\$17,292,414</u>	<u>\$91,603</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$17,384,017</u>

**NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

The Statewide retirement system provides both pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

***Net Pension Liability /Net OPEB Liability (Asset)***

The net pension liability and the net OPEB liability (asset) reported on the statement of net position represent liabilities to employees for pensions and OPEB, respectively. Pensions/OPEB are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the City's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculations are dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting these estimates annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the City's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The City cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions are financed; however, the City does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a *net pension/OPEB asset* or a long-term *net pension/OPEB liability* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually required pension/OPEB contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *intergovernmental payable*

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)***

Plan Description - City employees, other than full-time police and firefighters, participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system which administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
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sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan, and the combined Effective January 1, 2024, the Combined Plan was consolidated into the Traditional Pension Plan, as approved by the legislature in House Bill 33. The Traditional Pension Plan includes members of the legacy Combined Plan, a hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution plan which was closed to new members effective January 1, 2022. New members are no longer able to select the Combined Plan, and current members are no longer able to make a plan change to the Combined Plan. The Combined Plan was consolidated into the Traditional Pension Plan effective January 1, 2024, as a separate division. No changes were made to the benefit design features of the Combined Plan as part of this consolidation so that members in this plan will experience no changes. The City's 2024 net pension liability (asset) for OPERS is measured as of December 31, 2023, and reflects the Traditional Plan and the Combined Plan as two separate plans. The City's 2025 financial statements will reflect the effects of the Combined Plan being consolidated into the Traditional Pension Plan. Participating employers are divided into state, local, law enforcement and public safety divisions. While members in the state and local divisions may participate in all three plans, law enforcement and public safety divisions exist only within the traditional plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 800-222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members in the traditional and combined plans were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plans as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for reduced and unreduced benefits):

<b>Group A</b> Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group B</b> 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group C</b> Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
<b>State and Local</b>	<b>State and Local</b>	<b>State and Local</b>
<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35
<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 35

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Traditional plan state and local members who retire before meeting the age-and-years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount. The amount of a member's pension benefit vests at retirement.

Law enforcement and public safety members who retire before meeting the age-and-years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount.

Combined plan members retiring before age 65 with less than 30 years of service credit receive a percentage reduction in benefit.

Final average salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

When a traditional plan benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, the member is eligible for an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). This COLA is calculated on the member's original base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. Members retiring under the combined plan receive a cost-of-living adjustment on the defined benefit portion of their pension benefit. For those who retired prior to January 7, 2013, the cost-of-living adjustment is 3 percent. For those retiring on or after January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the adjustment is based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent.

Defined contribution plan benefits are established in the plan documents, which may be amended by the Board. Member-directed plan and combined plan members who have met the retirement eligibility requirements may apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the combined plan consists of the member's contributions plus or minus the investment gains or losses resulting from the member's investment selections. Combined plan members wishing to receive benefits must meet the requirements for both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Member-directed participants must have attained the age of 55, have money on deposit in the defined contribution plan and have terminated public service to apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the member-directed plan consists of the members' contributions, vested employer contributions and investment gains or losses resulting from the members' investment selections. Employer contributions and associated investment earnings vest over a five-year period, at a rate of 20 percent each year. At retirement, members may select one of several distribution options for payment of the vested balance in their individual OPERS accounts. Options include the annuitization of the benefit (which includes joint and survivor options and will continue to be administered by OPERS), partial lump-sum payments (subject to limitations), a rollover of the vested account balance to another financial institution, receipt of entire account balance, net of taxes withheld, or a combination of these options. When members choose to annuitize their defined contribution benefit, the annuitized portion of the benefit is reclassified to a defined benefit.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

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	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Combined</u>
<b>2024 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer	14.0 %	14.0 %
Employee *	10.0 %	10.0 %
<b>2024 Actual Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer:		
Pension **	14.0 %	12.0 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits **	<u>0.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>
Total Employer	<u>14.0 %</u>	<u>14.0 %</u>
Employee	<u>10.0 %</u>	<u>10.0 %</u>

\* Member contributions within the combined plan are not used to fund the defined benefit retirement allowance.

\*\* These pension and employer health care rates are for the traditional and combined plans. The employer contributions rate for the member-directed plan is allocated 4 percent for health care with the remainder going to pension; however, effective July 1, 2022, a portion of the health care rate is funded with reserves.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined within the constraints of statutory limits for each division and expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

For 2024, the City's contractually required contribution was \$289,314 for the traditional plan, \$0 for the combined plan, and \$7,397 for the member-directed plan. Of these amounts, \$28,780 is reported as an intergovernmental payable for the traditional plan, no amount for the combined plan, and \$735 for the member-directed plan.

***Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)***

Plan Description – City full-time police and firefighters participate in Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by OP&F. OP&F provides retirement and disability pension benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by the Ohio State Legislature and are codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code. OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information and detailed information about OP&F fiduciary net position. The report may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

Upon attaining a qualifying age with sufficient years of service, a member of OP&F may retire and receive a lifetime monthly pension. OP&F offers four types of service retirement: normal, service commuted, age/service commuted and actuarially reduced. Each type has different eligibility guidelines and is calculated using the member's average annual salary. The following discussion of the pension formula relates to normal service retirement.

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For members hired after July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 52 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit. For members hired on or before July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 48 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit.

The annual pension benefit for normal service retirement is equal to a percentage of the allowable average annual salary. The percentage equals 2.5 percent for each of the first 20 years of service credit, 2.0 percent for each of the next five years of service credit and 1.5 percent for each year of service credit in excess of 25 years. The maximum pension of 72 percent of the allowable average annual salary is paid after 33 years of service credit (see OP&F Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for Deferred Retirement Option Plan provisions and reduced and unreduced benefits).

Under normal service retirement, retired members who are at least 55 years old and have been receiving OP&F benefits for at least one year may be eligible for a cost-of-living allowance adjustment. The age 55 provision for receiving a COLA does not apply to those who are receiving a permanent and total disability benefit, surviving beneficiaries under optional plans, and statutory survivors. Members participating in the DROP program have separate eligibility requirements related to COLA.

The COLA amount for members who have 15 or more years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members who are receiving a pension benefit that became effective before July 1, 2013, will be equal to 3.0 percent of the member's base pension benefit.

The COLA amount for members who have less than 15 years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members whose pension benefit became effective on or after July 1, 2013, will be equal to a percentage of the member's base pension benefit where the percentage is the lesser of 3.0 percent or the percentage increase in the consumer price index, if any, over the twelve-month period that ends on the thirtieth day of September of the immediately preceding year, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent.

Members who retired prior to July 24, 1986, or their surviving beneficiaries under optional plans are entitled to cost-of-living allowance increases. The annual increase is paid on July 1st of each year. The annual COLA increase is \$360 under a Single Life Annuity Plan with proportional reductions for optional payment plans.

Funding Policy – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:



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	<u>Police</u>	<u>Firefighters</u>
<b>2024 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer	19.50 %	24.00 %
Employee	12.25 %	12.25 %
<b>2024 Actual Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer:		
Pension	19.00 %	23.50 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits	<u>0.50</u>	<u>0.50</u>
Total Employer	<u>19.50 %</u>	<u>24.00 %</u>
Employee	<u>12.25 %</u>	<u>12.25 %</u>

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The City's contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$173,934 for 2024. Of this amount, \$26,890 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

***Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions***

The net pension liability (asset) for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. OP&F's total pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2023, and was determined by rolling forward the total pension liability as of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The City's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) was based on the City's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense of the City's defined benefit pension plans:

	<u>Traditional Plan</u>	<u>Combined Plan</u>	<u>OP&amp;F</u>	
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability/Asset:				
Current Measurement Date	0.012278%	0.000000%	0.0239240%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.012095%</u>	<u>0.000000%</u>	<u>0.0246683%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.000183%</u>	<u>0.000000%</u>	<u>-0.0007443%</u>	
				<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the:				
Net Pension Liability	\$3,214,431	\$0	\$2,311,389	\$5,525,820
Pension Expense	418,958	3,028	272,935	694,921

2024 pension expense for the member-directed defined contribution plan was \$7,397. The aggregate pension expense for all pension plans was \$694,921 for 2024.

At December 31, 2024, the City reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to defined benefit pensions from the following sources:

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	OPERS Traditional Plan	OPERS Combined Plan	OP&F	Total
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>				
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$52,537	\$0	\$74,202	\$126,739
Changes of assumptions	0	0	146,077	146,077
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	648,809	0	261,929	910,738
Changes in proportion and differences between City contributions and proportionate share of contributions	39,287	15,190	149,965	204,442
City contributions subsequent to the measurement date	289,314	0	173,934	463,248
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$1,029,947</u>	<u>\$15,190</u>	<u>\$806,107</u>	<u>\$1,851,244</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>				
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$0	\$0	\$25,850	\$25,850
Changes of assumptions	0	0	35,101	35,101
Changes in proportion and differences between City contributions and proportionate share of contributions	0	233	49,687	49,920
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$233</u>	<u>\$110,638</u>	<u>\$110,871</u>

\$463,248 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from City contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	OPERS Traditional Plan	OPERS Combined Plan	OP&F	Total
Year Ending December 31:				
2025	\$194,924	\$3,025	\$165,417	\$363,366
2026	224,065	3,028	157,566	384,659
2027	414,032	2,976	196,791	613,799
2028	(92,388)	2,927	571	(88,890)
2029	0	2,493	1,153	3,646
Thereafter	0	508	37	545
Total	<u>\$740,633</u>	<u>\$14,957</u>	<u>\$521,535</u>	<u>\$1,277,125</u>

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***Actuarial Assumptions – OPERS***

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial-reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023, using the following key actuarial assumptions and methods applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 67:

	OPERS Traditional Plan	OPERS Combined Plan
Wage Inflation	2.75 percent	2.75 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	2.75 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation	2.75 to 8.25 percent including wage inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA:		
Pre-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3.0 percent, simple	3.0 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees (Current Year)	2.3 percent, simple through 2024, then 2.05 percent, simple	2.3 percent, simple through 2024, then 2.05 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees (Prior Year)	3.0 percent, simple through 2023, then 2.05 percent, simple	3.0 percent, simple through 2023, then 2.05 percent, simple
Investment Rate of Return	6.9 percent	6.9 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2020.

During 2023, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Defined Contribution portfolio and the Health Care portfolio. The Defined Benefit portfolio contains the investment assets of the Traditional Pension Plan, the defined benefit component of the Combined Plan and the annuitized accounts of the Member-Directed Plan. Within the Defined Benefit portfolio, contributions into the plans are all recorded at the same time, and benefit payments all occur on the first of the month. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Defined Benefit portfolio was a gain of 11.2 percent for 2023.

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The allocation of investment assets within the Defined Benefit portfolio is approved by the Board as outlined in the annual investment plan. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. The long-term expected rate of return on defined benefit investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return were provided by the Board's investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Defined Benefit portfolio's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2023, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)
Fixed Income	24.00%	2.85%
Domestic Equities	21.00	4.27
Real Estate	13.00	4.46
Private Equity	15.00	7.52
International Equities	20.00	5.16
Risk Parity	2.00	4.38
Other investments	5.00	3.46
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.9 percent for the Traditional Pension Plan, Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and those of the contributing employers are made at the contractually required rates, as actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments for the Traditional Pension Plan, Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Discount Rate** The following table presents the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 6.9 percent, as well as what the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (5.9 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (7.9 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.90%)	Discount Rate (6.90%)	1% Increase (7.90%)
<b>City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)</b>			
OPERS Traditional Plan	\$5,060,378	\$3,214,431	\$1,679,139

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***Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F***

The total pension liability is determined by OP&F's actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing retirement plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements, and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. Assumptions considered were: withdrawal rates, disability retirement, service retirement, DROP elections, mortality, percent married and forms of payment, DROP interest rate, CPI-based COLA, investment returns, salary increases and payroll growth. The changes in assumptions are being amortized over the estimated remaining useful life of the participants which was 6.03 years at December 31, 2023.

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, prepared as of January 1, 2023, are presented below.

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	7.5 percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 percent to 10.5 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent per annum, compounded annually, consisting of Inflation rate of 2.75 percent plus productivity increase rate of 0.5 percent
Cost of Living Adjustments	2.2 percent simple per year

Mortality for service retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Healthy Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 96.2 percent for males and 98.7 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Mortality for disabled retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Safety Amount-Weighted Disabled Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 135 percent for males and 97.9 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Mortality for contingent annuitants is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount Weighted Contingent Annuitant Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 108.9 percent for males and 131 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Mortality for active members is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Employee mortality table. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2021.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption (30 to 50 years) and is not expected to change absent a significant change in

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the asset allocation, a change in the underlying inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

Best estimates of the long-term expected real rates of return for each major asset class included in OP&F's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2023, are summarized below:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	18.60 %	4.10 %
Non-US Equity	12.40	4.90
Private Markets	10.00	7.30
Core Fixed Income *	25.00	2.40
High Yield Fixed Income	7.00	4.10
Private Credit	5.00	6.80
U.S. Inflation Linked Bonds*	15.00	2.10
Midstream Energy Infrastructure	5.00	5.80
Real Assets	8.00	6.00
Gold	5.00	3.50
Private Real Estate	12.00	5.40
Commodities	2.00	3.50
Total	<u>125.00 %</u>	

Note: Assumptions are geometric.

\* levered 2.0x

OP&F's Board of Trustees has incorporated the risk parity concept into OP&F's asset liability valuation with the goal of reducing equity risk exposure, which reduces overall Total Portfolio risk without sacrificing return and creating a more risk-balanced portfolio based on the relationship between asset classes and economic environments. From the notional portfolio perspective above, the Total Portfolio may be levered up to 1.25 times due to the application of leverage in certain fixed income asset classes.

**Discount Rate** For 2023, the total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by state statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return 7.50 percent. Based on those assumptions, OP&F's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payment of current plan members. Therefore, a long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

***Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate***

Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate. To illustrate the potential impact, the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.50 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.50 percent) than the current rate:

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	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$3,061,606	\$2,311,389	\$1,687,510

**NOTE 12 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans**

See Note 11 for a description of the net OPEB liability.

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)***

Plan Description – The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: the traditional pension plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the member-directed plan, a defined contribution plan; and the combined plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust. The 115 Health Care Trust (115 Trust or Health Care Trust) was established in 2014, under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The purpose of the 115 Trust is to fund health care for the Traditional Pension, Combined, and Member-Directed plans. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. Retirees in the Traditional Pension and Combined plans may have an allowance deposited into a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) account to be used toward the health care program of their choice and other eligible expenses. An OPERS vendor is available to assist with the selection of a health care program.

With one exception, OPERS-provided health care coverage is neither guaranteed nor statutorily required. Ohio law currently requires Medicare Part A equivalent coverage or Medicare Part A premium reimbursement for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents.

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.

OPERS members enrolled in the Traditional Pension Plan or Combined Plan retiring with an effective date of January 1, 2022, or after must meet the following health care eligibility requirements to receive an HRA allowance:

**Age 65 or older Retirees** Minimum of 20 years of qualifying service credit

**Age 60 to 64 Retirees** Based on the following age-and-service criteria:

**Group A** 30 years of total service with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit;

**Group B** 31 years of total service credit with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit; or

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**Group C** 32 years of total service credit with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit.

**Age 59 or younger** Based on the following age-and-service criteria:

**Group A** 30 years of qualified health care service credit;

**Group B** 32 years of qualified health care service credit at any age or 31 years of qualified health care service credit and at least age 52; or

**Group C** 32 years of qualified health care service credit and at least age 55.

Retirees who do not meet the requirement for coverage as a non-Medicare participant can become eligible for coverage at age 65 if they have at least 20 years of qualifying service.

Members with a retirement date prior to January 1, 2022, who were eligible to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022, as summarized in the following table:

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>
<b>Age and Service Requirements December 1, 2014 or Prior</b>	<b>Age and Service Requirements December 1, 2014 or Prior</b>	<b>Age and Service Requirements December 1, 2014 or Prior</b>
Any Age with 10 years of service credit	Any Age with 10 years of service credit	Any Age with 10 years of service credit
<b>January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2021</b>	<b>January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2021</b>	<b>January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2021</b>
Age 60 with 20 years of service credit or Any Age with 30 years of service credit	Age 52 with 31 years of service credit or Age 60 with 20 years of service credit or Any Age with 32 years of service credit	Age 55 with 32 years of service credit or Age 60 with 20 years of service credit

See the Age and Service Retirement section of the OPERS ACFR for a description of Groups A, B and C.

Eligible retirees may receive a monthly HRA allowance for reimbursement of health care coverage premiums and other qualified medical expenses. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are provided to eligible retirees, and are deposited into their HRA account.

The base allowance is determined by OPERS and is currently \$1,200 per month for non-Medicare retirees and \$350 per month for Medicare retirees. The retiree receives a percentage of the base allowance, calculated based on years of qualifying service credit and age when the retiree first enrolled in OPERS health care. Monthly allowances range between 51 percent and 90 percent of the base allowance for both non-Medicare and Medicare retirees.

Retirees will have access to the OPERS Connector, which is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees participating in the health care program. The OPERS Connector may assist retirees in selecting and enrolling in the appropriate health care plan.

When members become Medicare-eligible, recipients enrolled in OPERS health care programs must enroll in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Medicare Part B (medical).



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OPERS reimburses retirees who are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A (hospitalization) for their Part A premiums as well as any applicable surcharges (late-enrollment fees). Retirees within this group must enroll in Medicare Part A and select medical coverage, and may select prescription coverage, through the OPERS Connector. OPERS also will reimburse 50 percent of the Medicare Part A premium and any applicable surcharges for eligible spouses. Proof of enrollment in Medicare Part A and confirmation that the retiree is not receiving reimbursement or payment from another source must be submitted. The premium reimbursement is added to the monthly pension benefit.

Participants in the Member-Directed Plan have access to the Connector and have a separate health care funding mechanism. A portion of employer contributions for these participants is allocated to a retiree medical account (RMA). Members who elect the Member-Directed Plan after July 1, 2015, will vest in the RMA over 15 years at a rate of 10 percent each year starting with the sixth year of participation. Members who elected the Member-Directed Plan prior to July 1, 2015, vest in the RMA over a five-year period at a rate of 20 percent per year. Upon separation or retirement, participants may use vested RMA funds for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority allowing public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans. Beginning in 2018, OPERS no longer allocated a portion of its employer contributions to health care for the traditional plan.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2024, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.0 percent of earnable salary and public safety and law enforcement employers contributed at 18.1 percent. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. For 2024, OPERS did not allocate any employer contribution to health care for members in the Traditional Pension Plan. Beginning July 1, 2022, there was a two percent allocation to health care for the Combined Plan which has continued through 2024. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the member-directed plan for 2024 was 4.0 percent. Effective July 1, 2022, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves which has continued through 2024.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The City's contractually required contribution was \$1,728 for 2024. Of this amount, \$172 was reported as intergovernmental payable.

***Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)***

Plan Description – The City contributes to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) sponsored healthcare program, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined post-employment health care plan

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administered by a third-party provider. This program is not guaranteed and is subject to change at any time upon action of the Board of Trustees. On January 1, 2019, OP&F implemented a new model for health care. Under this new model, OP&F provides eligible retirees with a fixed stipend earmarked to pay for health care and Medicare Part B reimbursements.

OP&F contracted with a vendor who assists eligible retirees in choosing health care plans that are available where they live (both Medicare-eligible and pre-65 populations). A stipend funded by OP&F is available to these members through a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and can be used to reimburse retirees for qualified health care expenses.

Regardless of a benefit recipient's participation in the health care program, OP&F is required by law to pay eligible recipients of a service pension, disability benefit and spousal survivor benefit for their Medicare Part B insurance premium, up to the statutory maximum provided the benefit recipient is not eligible to receive reimbursement from any other source. Once OP&F receives the necessary documentation, a monthly reimbursement is included as part of the recipient's next benefit payment. The stipend provided by OP&F meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75.

OP&F maintains funds for health care in two separate accounts: one account for health care benefits and one account for Medicare Part B reimbursements. A separate health care trust accrual account is maintained for health care benefits under IRS Code Section 115 trust. IRS Code Section 401(h) account is maintained for Medicare Part B reimbursements.

The Ohio Revised Code allows, but does not mandate, OP&F to provide OPEB benefits. Authority for the OP&F Board of Trustees to provide health care coverage to eligible participants and to establish and amend benefits is codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code.

OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information for the plan. The report may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

**Funding Policy** – The Ohio Revised Code provides for contribution requirements of the participating employers and of plan members to the OP&F defined benefit pension plan. Participating employers are required to contribute to the pension plan at rates expressed as percentages of the payroll of active pension plan members, currently 19.5 percent and 24 percent of covered payroll for police and fire employer units, respectively. The Ohio Revised Code states that the employer contribution may not exceed 19.5 percent of covered payroll for police employer units and 24 percent of covered payroll for fire employer units. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan.

The Board of Trustees is authorized to allocate a portion of the total employer contributions for retiree health care benefits. For 2024, the portion of employer contributions allocated to health care was 0.5 percent of covered payroll. The amount of employer contributions allocated to the health care plan each year is subject to the Trustees' primary responsibility to ensure that pension benefits are adequately funded.

The OP&F Board of Trustees is also authorized to establish requirements for contributions to the health care plan by retirees and their eligible dependents or their surviving beneficiaries. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected.

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The City's contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$4,350 for 2024. Of this amount, \$674 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

***OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB***

The net OPEB liability (asset) and total OPEB liability for OPERS were determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2023, by incorporating the expected value of health care cost accruals, the actual health care payment, and interest accruals during the year. OP&F's total OPEB liability was measured as of December 31, 2023, and was determined by rolling forward the total OPEB liability as of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The City's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the City's share of contributions to the retirement plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>OPERS</u>	<u>OP&amp;F</u>	
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/Asset:			
Current Measurement Date	0.011737%	0.0239240%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.011554%</u>	<u>0.0246683%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.000183%</u>	<u>-0.0007443%</u>	
			<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the:			
Net OPEB Liability	\$0	\$174,677	\$174,677
Net OPEB Asset	(\$105,929)	\$0	(\$105,929)
OPEB Expense	(\$13,596)	\$3,270	(\$10,326)

At December 31, 2024, the City reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

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	<u>OPERS</u>	<u>OP&amp;F</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$0	\$8,400	\$8,400
Changes of assumptions	27,271	60,108	87,379
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	63,617	12,899	76,516
Changes in proportion and differences between City contributions and proportionate share of contributions	121	26,428	26,549
City contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,728</u>	<u>4,350</u>	<u>6,078</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u><u>\$92,737</u></u>	<u><u>\$112,185</u></u>	<u><u>\$204,922</u></u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$15,076	\$32,100	\$47,176
Changes of assumptions	45,536	112,488	158,024
Changes in proportion and differences between City contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>1,147</u>	<u>14,774</u>	<u>15,921</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u><u>\$61,759</u></u>	<u><u>\$159,362</u></u>	<u><u>\$221,121</u></u>

\$6,078 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from City contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ending December 31:	<u>OPERS</u>	<u>OP&amp;F</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	(\$3,304)	(\$4,964)	(\$8,268)
2026	4,514	(3,531)	983
2027	49,522	75	49,597
2028	(21,482)	(10,569)	(32,051)
2029	0	(14,337)	(14,337)
Thereafter	<u>0</u>	<u>(18,201)</u>	<u>(18,201)</u>
Total	<u><u>\$29,250</u></u>	<u><u>(\$51,527)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$22,277)</u></u>

***Actuarial Assumptions - OPERS***

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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Projections of health care costs for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of coverage provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of costs between the System and plan members. The actuarial valuation used the following key actuarial assumptions and methods applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 74:

Wage Inflation	2.75 percent
Projected Salary Increases,	2.75 to 10.75 percent
	including wage inflation
Single Discount Rate	5.70 percent
Prior Year Single Discount Rate	5.22 percent
Investment Rate of Return	6.00 percent
Municipal Bond Rate	3.77 percent
Prior Year Municipal Bond Rate	4.05 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	5.5 percent, initial
	3.50 percent, ultimate in 2038
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2020.

During 2023, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Defined Contribution portfolio and the Health Care portfolio. The Health Care portfolio includes the assets for health care expenses for the Traditional Pension Plan, Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan eligible members. Within the Health Care portfolio, contributions into the plans are assumed to be received continuously throughout the year based on the actual payroll payable at the time contributions are made, and health care-related payments are assumed to occur mid-year. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Health Care portfolio was a gain of 14.0 percent for 2023.

The allocation of investment assets within the Health Care portfolio is approved by the Board as outlined in the annual investment plan. Assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of continuing to offer a sustainable health care program for current and future retirees. OPERS' primary goal is to achieve and maintain a fully funded status for benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. Health care is a discretionary benefit. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return were provided

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by the Board's investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Health Care portfolio's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2023, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)
Fixed Income	37.00%	2.82%
Domestic Equities	25.00	4.27
Real Estate Investment Trust	5.00	4.68
International Equities	25.00	5.16
Risk Parity	3.00	4.38
Other investments	5.00	2.43
Total	100.00%	

**Discount Rate** A single discount rate of 5.70 percent was used to measure the total OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2023; however, the single discount rate used at the beginning of the year was 5.22 percent. Projected benefit payments are required to be discounted to their actuarial present value using a single discount rate that reflects (1) a long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments (to the extent that the health care fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits), and (2) a tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate are not met). This single discount rate was based on the actuarial assumed rate of return on the health care investment portfolio of 6.00 percent and a municipal bond rate of 3.77 percent. (Fidelity Index's "20-Year Municipal GO AA Index") The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on these assumptions, the health care fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance health care costs through the year 2070. As a result, the actuarial assumed long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through the year 2070, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all health care costs after that date.

***Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate***

The following table presents the City's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the single discount rate of 5.70 percent, as well as what the City's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (4.70 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (6.70 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.70%)	Current Discount Rate (5.70%)	1% Increase (6.70%)
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$58,216	(\$105,929)	(\$241,900)

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***Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rate*** Changes in the health care cost trend rate may also have a significant impact on the net OPEB liability or asset. The following table presents the net OPEB liability or asset calculated using the assumed trend rates, and the expected net OPEB liability or asset if it were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1.0 percent lower or 1.0 percent higher than the current rate.

Retiree health care valuations use a health care cost trend assumption with changes over several years built into that assumption. The near-term rates reflect increases in the current cost of health care; the trend starting in 2024 is 5.50 percent. If this trend continues for future years, the projection indicates that years from now virtually all expenditures will be for health care. A more reasonable alternative is the health care cost trend will decrease to a level at, or near, wage inflation. On this basis, the actuaries project premium rate increases will continue to exceed wage inflation for approximately the next decade, but by less each year, until leveling off at an ultimate rate, assumed to be 3.50 percent in the most recent valuation.

	Current Health Care Cost Trend Rate		
	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Assumption</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$110,328)	(\$105,929)	(\$100,938)

***Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F***

OP&F's total OPEB liability as of December 31, 2023, is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2023, and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The total OPEB liability is determined by OP&F's actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing retirement plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements, and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases, actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation are presented below:

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Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	7.5 percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.50 percent to 10.5 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent
Blended discount rate:	
Current measurement rate	4.07 percent
Prior measurement rate	4.27 percent
Cost of Living Adjustments	2.2 percent simple per year
Projected Depletion Year of OPEB Assets	2038

Mortality for service retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Healthy Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 96.2 percent for males and 98.7 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Mortality for disabled retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Safety Amount-Weighted Disabled Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 135 percent for males and 97.9 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Mortality for contingent annuitants is based on the Pub- 2010 Below-Median Safety Amount Weighted Contingent Annuitant Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 108.9 percent for males and 131 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Mortality for active members is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Employee mortality table. All rates are projected using the MP- 2021 Improvement Scale.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2021.

The OP&F health care plan follows the same asset allocation and long-term expected real rate of return for each major asset class as the pension plan, see Note 11.

**Discount Rate** For 2023, the total OPEB liability was calculated using the discount rate of 4.07 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by state statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return 7.5 percent. Based on those assumptions, OP&F's fiduciary net position was projected to not be able to make all future benefit payment of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term assumed rate of return on investments of 7.5 percent was applied to periods before December 31, 2037, and the Municipal Bond Index Rate of 3.38 percent was applied to periods on and after December 31, 2037, resulting in a discount rate of 4.07 percent.

**Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** Net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate. To illustrate the potential impact, the following table presents the net OPEB liability calculated using the discount rate of 4.07 percent, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.07 percent), or one percentage point higher (5.07 percent), than the current rate:



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	1% Decrease (3.07%)	Current Discount Rate (4.07%)	1% Increase (5.07%)
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$215,513	\$174,677	\$140,587

**NOTE 13 - OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

**A. Deferred Compensation Plans**

City employees and elected officials participate in a statewide deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457 and is considered an other employee benefit plan. Participation is on a voluntary payroll deduction basis. The plan permits deferral of compensation until future years. According to the plan, the deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency.

**B. Employee Insurance Benefits**

The City provides one year's salary in life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance through Sun Life to its full-time employees and part-time employees working a minimum of more than thirty-two hours per week.

The City contracts with Michigan Conference of Teamsters for hospitalization and prescription insurance for all employees. Monthly premiums for single and family coverage are determined by each individual being insured, meeting certain rate criteria. The City pays 90 percent of premiums for all elected officials and employees. Premiums are paid from the same funds that pay the employees' salaries.

**C. Compensated Absences**

Vacation leave is earned at varying rates based upon length of service. A maximum number of vacation hours may be accumulated based on length of service. Any unused vacation exceeding the maximum allowance is eliminated from the employee's leave balance. At the time of termination of employment or death, an employee (or his estate) is paid for his unused vacation leave.

Sick leave is earned at the rate of 4.6 hours per eighty hours of service for police employees, 4.6 hours per eighty hours of service for fire employees, and 4.6 hours per eighty hours of service for all other employees. Sick leave can be accumulated without limit for police and fire, but sick leave is not to exceed 120 hours per year for all other employees. In the case of death or retirement of an employee who has five years of service, an employee or his estate is paid for one-half of his accumulated sick leave up to a maximum payment equal to thirty days for police and fire personnel, and forty-five days for other city employees.

**NOTE 14 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The City has addressed these various types of risks by purchasing comprehensive insurance through The Ohio Plan.

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The types of coverage that the City has with The Ohio Plan are:

Type of Coverage	Limit	Aggregate Limit
General Liability	\$2,000,000 Per Occurrence	\$4,000,000
Public Officials Liability	2,000,000 Per Occurrence	4,000,000
Auto Liability	2,000,000 Per Occurrence	
Law Enforcement Professional Liability	2,000,000 Per Occurrence	4,000,000
Employee Dishonesty	50,000 Per Occurrence	
Property Damage	29,192,163	

Settled claims have not exceeded their commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year.

For 2024, the City paid the state workers' compensation system a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accidents, history, and administrative costs. The participation in this state mandated insurance fund allows the City to transfer all risk associated with workers compensation.

**NOTE 15 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

Changes in the City's long-term obligations during 2024 consist of the following:

	Outstanding 1/1/2024	Additions	Reductions	Outstanding 12/31/2024	Amounts Due Within One Year
<b><u>Governmental Activities:</u></b>					
<b><u>Direct Borrowings</u></b>					
Fire Department Renovation Loan - 2016 - 3.38%	\$65,737	\$0	\$4,086	\$61,651	\$4,086
Fire Trucks Loan - 2014 - 3%	5,717	0	5,717	0	0
Fire Rescue Pumper Loan - 2018 - 3.75%	350,466	0	44,611	305,855	46,344
USDA Loan Air Packs - 2020 - 2.25%	63,500	0	8,500	55,000	8,500
Fire Truck Loan - 2024 - 5.99%	0	540,000	0	540,000	40,838
Total Loans from Direct Borrowings	485,420	540,000	62,914	962,506	99,768
<b><u>Net Pension Liability:</u></b>					
OPERS	1,143,318	0	307,567	835,751	0
OP&F	2,343,249	0	31,860	2,311,389	0
Total Net Pension Liability	3,486,567	0	339,427	3,147,140	0
<b><u>Net OPEB Liability:</u></b>					
OPERS	23,312	0	23,312	0	0
OP&F	175,632	0	955	174,677	0
Total Net OPEB Liability	198,944	0	24,267	174,677	0
Lease Payable	1,216	0	604	612	612
Compensated Absences Payable	228,364	36,059	0	264,423	57,561
Total Governmental Activities	\$4,400,511	\$576,059	\$427,212	\$4,549,358	\$157,941

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<b><u>Business-Type Activities:</u></b>	Outstanding 1/1/2024	Additions	Reductions	Outstanding 12/31/2024	Amounts Due Within One Year
<b><u>Direct Borrowing Loans</u></b>					
<b><u>OPWC Loans</u></b>					
South Water Sludge Basin - 2009 - 0.00%	\$26,341	\$0	\$3,763	\$22,578	\$3,763
<b><u>OWDA Loans</u></b>					
Water Line Replacement - 2010 - 0.00%	44,951	0	2,724	42,227	2,724
North Water Treatment Plant - 2011 - 0%	242,194	0	13,091	229,103	13,092
Jenkins Water Tank Replacement - 2011 - 2%	306,976	0	13,863	293,113	13,863
Fresh Water Fund (Phase II) - 2013 - 2.79%	31,494	0	5,375	26,119	5,375
South Water Treatment Plant - 2017 - 1.63%	563,980	0	20,512	543,468	0
New York & Broadway Water - 2022 - 0%	361,999	0	6,033	355,966	6,033
Water Treatment Plant - 2024 - 3.74%	234,993	475,262	710,255	0	0
Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 - 2024 - 0%	0	521,121	0	521,121	0
New York & Broadway Sanitary Sewer - 2024 - 1%	0	654,764	0	654,764	0
Total OWDA Loans Payable	1,786,587	1,651,147	771,853	2,665,881	41,087
<b><u>Other Loans</u></b>					
Flex Net Loan - 2018 - 4.070%	242,181	0	44,581	197,600	46,447
Sewer Refinance Loan - 2020 - 2.89%	1,287,804	0	91,102	1,196,702	93,772
Garbage Truck Loan - 2022 - 2.49%	226,383	0	43,048	183,335	43,048
Total Other Loans Payable	1,756,368	0	178,731	1,577,637	183,267
Total Loans from Direct Borrowings	3,569,296	1,651,147	954,347	4,266,096	228,117
Net Pension Liability - OPERS	2,429,550	110,195	161,065	2,378,680	0
Net OPEB Liability- OPERS	49,537	0	49,537	0	0
Lease Payable	46,472	0	26,406	20,066	20,066
Compensated Absences Payable	153,621	11,884	0	165,505	33,169
Asset Retirement Obligation	166,000	0	0	166,000	0
Total Business-Type Activities	\$6,414,476	\$1,773,226	\$1,191,355	\$6,996,347	\$281,352

Increases and decreases to compensated absences are presented net on the preceding tables.

There are no repayment schedules for the net pension/OPEB liabilities. However, employer pension contributions are made from the following funds: General Fund; the Street and Cemetery Special Revenue Funds; and the Water, Sewer, and Garbage Enterprise Funds. For additional information related to the net pension/OPEB liabilities, see Notes 11 and 12.

As of December 31, 2024, the City's legal debt margin (the ability to issue additional amounts of general obligation bonded debt) was \$3,983,451, with an unvoted debt margin of \$4,825,361.

**Governmental Activities:**

In 2016, the City borrowed \$90,250 to renovate the fire department. The loan matures in 2026 and will be paid from the Fire Levy Fund. The City's outstanding Fire Department Renovation loan from direct borrowings contain provisions that in the event of default all indebtedness will become immediately due and payable, and the lender shall have all the rights and remedies provided in the related documents or available at law in equity or otherwise.

In 2014, the City borrowed \$160,000 to purchase a fire truck. The loan matured in 2024.

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In 2018, the City borrowed \$565,500 to purchase a fire rescue pumper. This loan matures in 2030 and will be paid from the County Sales Tax Fund. The City's outstanding Fire Rescue Pumper loan from direct borrowings contain provisions that in the event of default all indebtedness will become immediately due and payable, and the lender shall have all the rights and remedies provided in the related documents or available at law in equity or otherwise.

In 2020, the City borrowed \$88,000 to purchase air packs for the fire department. This loan matures in 2030 and will be paid from the Fire Levy Fund. The City's outstanding USDA Air Pack loan from direct borrowings contain provisions that in the event of default all indebtedness will become immediately due and payable, and the lender shall have all the rights and remedies provided in the related documents or available at law in equity or otherwise.

In 2024, the City borrowed \$540,000 to purchase a fire truck. The loan matures in 2034 and will be paid from the County Sales Tax Fund. The City's outstanding Fire Truck loan from direct borrowings contain provisions that in the event of default all indebtedness will become immediately due and payable, and the lender shall have all the rights and remedies provided in the related documents or available at law in equity or otherwise.

The annual requirements to retire these loans outstanding as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2025	\$99,768	\$47,670
2026	157,741	43,006
2027	104,884	36,517
2028	109,789	31,723
2029	114,900	26,513
2030-2034	375,424	60,970
	<u>\$962,506</u>	<u>\$246,399</u>

The City has an outstanding agreement to lease chairs. The future lease payments were discounted based on the interest rate stated in the lease agreement. This discount is being amortized using the interest method over the life of the lease. This lease will be paid from the General Fund. A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining leases is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2025	\$612	\$9

**Business-Type Activities:**

***OPWC Loans***

The City's outstanding OPWC loan from direct borrowings contain provisions that in the event of default (1) OPWC may apply late fees of 8 percent per year, (2) loans more than 60 days late will be turned over to the Attorney General's office for collection, and as provided by law, OPWC may require that such payment be taken from the City's share of the county undivided local government fund, and (3) the outstanding amounts shall, at OPWC's option, become immediately due and payable.

An OPWC loan was obtained in 2009 in the amount of \$75,259 for South Water Plant Improvements. Repayment will be made from user fees. The loan will be paid off in 2031.

Principal requirements to retire the City's OPWC loan outstanding at December 31, 2024, are:

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>
2025	\$3,763
2026	3,763
2027	3,763
2028	3,763
2029	3,763
2030-2031	<u>3,763</u>
	<u>\$22,578</u>

***OWDA Loans***

The City's outstanding OWDA loans from direct borrowings contain provisions that in an event of default (1) the amount of such default shall bear interest at the default rate from the due date until the date of payment, (2) if any of the charges have not been paid within 30 days, in addition to the interest calculated at the default rate, a late charge of 1 percent on the amount of each default shall also be paid to the OWDA, and (3) for each additional 30 days during which the charges remain unpaid, the City shall continue to pay an additional late charge of 1 percent on the amount of the default until such charges are paid.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2010 in the amount of \$81,729 for water system improvements. Repayment will be made from user fees and will be paid off in 2040.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2011 for upgrades to the North Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$392,747. Repayment will be made from user fees and a loan forgiveness grant and will be paid off in 2042.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2011 for replacement of the Jenkins Water Tank in the amount of \$293,857. Repayment will be made from user fees and a loan forgiveness grant and will be paid off in 2042.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2013 for additional upgrades to the North Water Treatment Plant (Fresh Water Phase II) in the amount of \$75,000. Repayment will be from user fees and will be paid off in 2029.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2016 for upgrades to the South Water Treatment Plant (South Water Upgrade). This loan was rolled over to the 2017 OWDA loan obtained in 2017. Repayment will be made from user fees. The loan has not been fully drawn, and an amortization schedule is not available.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2022 for the New York and Broadway Water Improvements in the amount of \$361,999. Repayment will be from user fees. Repayment will be from user fees and will be paid off in 2054.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2024 for the New York and Broadway Sanitary Sewer Improvements in the amount of \$1,351,868. Repayment will be from user fees. The loan has not been fully drawn, and an amortization schedule is not available.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2024 for the Water Treatment Plant. Repayment will be from user fees in the amount of \$698,613. The loan has not been fully drawn, and an amortization schedule is not available.

An OWDA loan was obtained in 2024 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 in the amount of \$5,335,000. Repayment will be from user fees. The loan has not been fully drawn, and an amortization schedule is not available.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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Principal and interest requirements to retire the City's enterprise OWDA loans outstanding, excluding those not yet fully drawn, at December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$41,087	\$6,482
2026	47,990	6,043
2027	48,439	5,593
2028	48,900	5,134
2029	46,262	4,663
2030-2034	220,725	18,358
2035-2039	229,229	9,852
2040-2044	142,797	1,361
2045-2049	60,335	0
2050-2054	60,764	0
Total	\$946,528	\$57,486

***Other Loans***

In 2018, the City borrowed \$440,023 for the purchase of equipment to be used in water distribution and meter departments. Repayment will be made from the Water and Sewer Departments and will be paid off in 2028.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the FlexNet loan outstanding at December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$46,447	\$8,154
2026	48,363	6,237
2027	50,360	4,241
2028	52,430	2,169
	\$197,600	\$20,801

In 2020, the City borrowed \$1,545,000 to refinance the City's outstanding General Obligation Bonds of \$441,000 and Revenue Bonds of \$1,105,000. This note is from direct borrowings and contains provisions that in the event of default the issuer may (1) declare the entire principal amount outstanding and accrued interest immediately due and payable (2) the interest rate will increase to 25 percent per annum based on a year of 360 days. Repayment will be made from the Sewer Department and will be paid off in 2035.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the City's Sewer Refinance loan outstanding at December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$93,772	\$35,065
2026	96,519	32,317
2027	99,347	29,489
2028	102,258	26,578
2029	105,255	23,582
2030-2034	574,383	69,801
2035	125,168	3,668
	\$1,196,702	\$220,500

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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In 2022, the City borrowed \$268,370 to purchase a garbage truck. This loan matures in 2028 and will be paid from the Garbage Fund. The City's outstanding Garbage Truck loan from direct borrowings contain provisions that in the event of default all indebtedness will become immediately due and payable, and the lender shall have all the rights and remedies provided in the related documents or available at law in equity or otherwise.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the City's Garbage Truck loan outstanding at December 31, 2024, are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2025	\$43,048	\$4,628
2026	45,249	3,514
2027	46,391	2,372
2028	48,647	1,201
	<u>\$183,335</u>	<u>\$11,715</u>

The City has an outstanding agreement to lease trash cans. The future lease payments were discounted based on the interest rate stated in the lease agreement. This discount is being amortized using the interest method over the life of the lease. This lease will be paid from the Garbage Fund. A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining leases is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2025	\$20,066	\$126

***Pledged Revenues***

The City has pledged future customer water revenues, net of specified operating expenses, to repay nine Ohio Water Development Authority loans. The loans are payable solely from customer net revenues.

The final loan payment will be in 2054. Net revenues include all revenues received by the water utility less all operating expenses other than depreciation expense. Annual principal and interest payments on the loans are expected to require 10 percent of net revenues. The total principal and interest remaining to be paid on the loans is \$2,068,603. Principal and interest payments for the current year were \$789,147, net revenues were (\$5,645) and total revenues were \$2,383,071.

The City has pledged future customer sewer revenues, net of specified operating expenses, to repay an Ohio Water Development Authority loan. The loan is payable solely from customer net revenues.

The final loan payment will be in 2070. Net revenues include all revenues received by the water utility less all operating expenses other than depreciation expense. Annual principal and interest payments on the loans are expected to require 10 percent of net revenues. The total principal and interest remaining to be paid on the loans is \$654,764. Due to the loan not being fully drawn, no principal or interest payments were made during 2024.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

**NOTE 16 - INTERFUND BALANCES**

**A. Internal Balances – Change in Proportionate Share**

The City uses an internal proportionate share to allocate its net pension/OPEB liability and corresponding deferred outflows/inflows of resources and pension/OPEB expense to its various funds. This allocation creates a change in internal proportionate share. The effects of the internal proportionate share are eliminated from the pension deferred outflows/inflows of resources in the governmental and business-type activities columns of the statement of net position, except for any net residual amounts between governmental and business-type activities. These residual amounts are eliminated in the total column of the entity wide statement of net position, thus allowing the total column to present the change in proportionate share for the City as a whole.

	Pension		OPEB	
	Deferred Outflows	Deferred Inflows	Deferred Outflows	Deferred Inflows
<b>Governmental Activities</b>	\$0	\$97,231	\$4,047	\$119
<b>Business-Type Activities</b>				
Water	89,712	0	88	3,906
Sewer	16,371	22,922	1,271	0
Garbage	25,547	11,477	0	1,381
Total Business-Type Activities	131,630	34,399	1,359	5,287
Elimination from Proprietary Fund Statements	(34,399)	(34,399)	(1,240)	(1,240)
<i>Total Business-Type Activities</i>	97,231	0	119	4,047
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,231</b>	<b>\$97,231</b>	<b>\$4,166</b>	<b>\$4,166</b>

**B. Internal Balances**

Interfund balances at December 31, 2024, arise from the provision of cash flow resources from the General Fund until the receipt of grant monies or other program revenues by the capital projects fund.

	Receivables	Payables
General Fund	\$35,006	\$0
Other Governmental Funds:		
Railroad Depot	0	35,006
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$35,006</b>	<b>\$35,006</b>

**NOTE 17 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

**A. Litigation**

The City is currently party to legal proceedings. The City has determined that any potential liability will not have a material effect on the financial statements.



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**B. Federal and State Grants**

For the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, the City received federal and state grants for specific purposes that are subject to review and audit by grantor agencies or their designee. Such audits could lead to a request for reimbursement to the grantor agency for expenditures disallowed under the terms of the grant. Based on prior experience, the City believes such disallowance, if any, would be immaterial.

**NOTE 18 - SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS**

**A. Encumbrances**

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to ensure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end, the amount of encumbrances expected to be honored upon performance by the vendor in the next year were as follows:

General Fund	\$56,832
Fire Levy Fund	194,250
County Sales Tax Fund	49,190
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	68,203
Water Fund	398,378
Sewer Fund	100,678
Nonmajor Enterprise Fund	1,777
	<u>\$869,308</u>

**B. Contractual Commitments**

As of December 31, 2024, the City had contractual commitments as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>	<u>Amount Expended</u>	<u>Balance at 12/31/2024</u>
Harvey Wells House	General	\$10,000	\$8,904	\$1,096
ODOT TAP Street Lights	Sales Tax	37,225	23,968	13,257
Blamer Ball Field	Recreation	239,875	170,288	69,587
Cemetery Phase 1	Cemetery	55,200	55,200	0
Total Governmental		<u>342,300</u>	<u>258,360</u>	<u>83,940</u>
Water Treatment Plant	Water	1,375,480	969,790	405,690
ODOT TAP Water Basin	Water	37,225	22,389	14,836
New York and Broadway Sewer Line	Sewer	4,603,916	4,384,698	219,218
ODOT TAP Storm Sewer	Sewer	37,225	8,648	28,577
12th Street Storm Sewer	Sewer	17,113	11,790	5,323
Total Business-Type		<u>6,070,959</u>	<u>5,397,315</u>	<u>673,644</u>
Total		<u>\$6,413,259</u>	<u>\$5,655,675</u>	<u>\$757,584</u>

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**NOTE 19 - FUND DEFICIT**

The Railroad Depot Capital Projects Fund had a deficit fund balance of \$35,006 as of December 31, 2024. This deficit is the result of the recognition of payables in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as well as a short-term interfund loan from the General Fund needed for operations until the receipt of grant monies. The General Fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances; however, this is done when cash is needed rather than when accruals occur.

**NOTE 20 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATION**

The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) is a regional council of governments formed to establish a central collection facility for the purpose of administering the income tax laws of the members and for the purpose of collection income taxes on behalf of each member. RITA currently has approximately 350 members in the council of governments. Each member has one representative to the council of governments and is entitled to one vote on items under consideration. RITA is administered by a nine-member board of trustees elected by the members of the council of governments. The board exercises total control over RITA's operation including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. Each participant's degree of control is limited to its representation on the council. For 2024, the membership costs are not yet available; however, they are not expected to be significantly different from 2023. For 2024, the City paid RITA \$46,888 for income tax collection services.

**NOTE 21 - ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS**

Ohio Revised Code Section 6111.44 requires the City to submit any changes to their sewerage system to the Ohio EPA for approval. Through this review process, the City would be responsible to address any public safety issues associated with their wastewater treatment facilities. These public safety issues would include removing/filling any tankage, cleaning/removing certain equipment, and backfilling certain exposed areas. This asset retirement obligation (ARO) of \$166,000 associated with the City wastewater treatment facilities were estimated by the City service director. The remaining useful life of these facilities range from 8 to 40 years.

**NOTE 22 – COVID-19**

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During 2024, the City received COVID-19 funding. The City will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System - Traditional Plan*  
*Last Ten Years\**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
City's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.012278%	0.012095%	0.011570%	0.011433%
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$3,214,431	\$3,572,868	\$1,006,637	\$1,692,978
City's Covered Payroll	\$2,020,936	\$1,874,907	\$1,679,243	\$1,610,257
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	159.06%	190.56%	59.95%	105.14%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	79.01%	75.74%	86.88%	86.88%

\* Amounts presented for each year were determined as of the City's measurement date which is the prior year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information  
See accountant's compilation report

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.010909%	0.010745%	0.010312%	0.010521%	0.009766%	0.009547%
\$2,156,238	\$2,942,838	\$1,617,753	\$2,389,141	\$1,691,594	\$1,151,471
\$1,534,929	\$1,451,207	\$1,362,769	\$1,165,808	\$1,041,908	\$1,170,417
140.48%	202.79%	118.71%	204.93%	162.36%	98.38%
82.17%	74.70%	84.66%	77.25%	81.08%	86.45%

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System - Combined Plan*  
*Last Seven Years(1) \**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
City's Proportion of the Net Pension Asset	0.000000%	0.000000%	0.000000%	0.007590%
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,909
City's Covered Payroll	\$0	\$48,021	\$44,971	\$0
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	144.55%	137.14%	157.67%	145.28%

(1) Amounts for the combined plan are not presented prior to 2018 as the City's participation in this plan was considered immaterial in previous years.

\* Amounts presented for each year were determined as of the City's measurement date which is the prior year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018
0.013392%	0.012923%	0.013429%
\$27,926	\$14,451	\$18,281
\$59,614	\$55,271	\$55,000
46.84%	26.15%	33.24%
126.64%	137.28%	116.55%

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System - OPEB Plan*  
*Last Eight Years (1)\**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
City's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	0.011737%	0.011554%	0.011057%	0.010948%
City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	(\$105,929)	\$72,849	(\$346,322)	(\$195,047)
City's Covered Payroll	\$2,123,154	\$1,922,928	\$1,724,228	\$1,610,257
City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-4.99%	3.79%	-20.09%	-12.11%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	107.76%	94.79%	128.23%	115.57%

(1) Although this schedule is intended to reflect information for ten years, information prior to 2017 is not available. An additional column will be added each year.

\* Amounts presented for each year were determined as of the City's measurement date which is the prior year end.

See accompanying notes to the report supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017
0.010849%	0.010745%	0.010330%	0.010590%
\$1,498,528	\$1,400,894	\$1,121,762	\$1,069,626
\$1,594,543	\$1,506,478	\$1,417,777	\$1,222,708
93.98%	92.99%	79.12%	87.48%
47.80%	46.33%	54.14%	54.04%



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund*  
*Last Ten Years \**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
City's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.0239240%	0.0246683%	0.0228256%	0.0227917%
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$2,311,389	\$2,343,249	\$1,426,011	\$1,553,731
City's Covered Payroll	\$676,617	\$703,886	\$575,226	\$587,056
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	341.61%	332.90%	247.90%	264.66%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	63.63%	62.90%	75.03%	70.65%

\* Amounts presented for each year were determined as of the City's measurement date which is the prior year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.0193532%	0.0199500%	0.0200530%	0.0212840%	0.0210600%	0.0206536%
\$1,303,735	\$1,628,447	\$1,230,744	\$1,348,107	\$1,354,804	\$1,069,942
\$476,643	\$472,109	\$448,713	\$454,728	\$440,284	\$422,474
273.52%	344.93%	274.28%	296.46%	307.71%	253.26%
69.89%	63.07%	70.91%	68.36%	66.77%	71.71%

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability*  
*Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund*  
*Last Eight Years (1) \**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
City's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.0239240%	0.0246683%	0.0228526%	0.0227917%
City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$174,677	\$175,632	\$250,188	\$241,482
City's Covered Payroll	\$676,617	\$703,886	\$575,226	\$587,056
City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	25.82%	24.95%	43.49%	41.13%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	51.89%	52.59%	46.90%	45.40%

(1) Although this schedule is intended to reflect information for ten years, information prior to 2017 is not available. An additional column will be added each year.

\* Amounts presented for each year were determined as of the City's measurement date which is the prior year end.

See accompanying notes to the report supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017
0.0193532%	0.0199500%	0.0200530%	0.0212840%
\$191,166	\$181,676	\$1,136,176	\$1,010,304
\$476,643	\$472,109	\$448,713	\$454,728
40.11%	38.48%	253.21%	222.18%
47.08%	46.57%	14.13%	15.96%

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of City Contributions*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System*  
*Last Ten Years*

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Net Pension Liability - Traditional Plan</b>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$289,314	\$282,931	\$262,487	\$235,094
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(289,314)	(282,931)	(262,487)	(235,094)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
City Covered Payroll	\$2,066,529	\$2,020,936	\$1,874,907	\$1,679,243
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>
<b>Net Pension Asset - Combined Plan</b>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$6,723	\$6,296
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	0	0	(6,723)	(6,296)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
City Covered Payroll	\$0	\$0	\$48,021	\$44,971
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>
<b>Net OPEB Liability (Asset) - OPEB Plan (2)</b>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$1,728	\$1,671	\$1,921	\$1,799
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(1,728)	(1,671)	(1,921)	(1,799)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
City Covered Payroll (1)	\$2,119,373	\$2,123,154	\$1,922,928	\$1,724,214
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>0.08%</u>	<u>0.08%</u>	<u>0.10%</u>	<u>0.10%</u>

(1) The OPEB plan includes the members from the traditional plan, the combined plan, and the member directed plan. The member directed plan is a defined contribution plan; therefore, the pension side is not included above.

(2) Information prior to 2016 is not available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$225,436	\$214,890	\$203,169	\$177,160	\$139,897	\$125,029
(225,436)	(214,890)	(203,169)	(177,160)	(139,897)	(125,029)
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$1,610,257	\$1,534,929	\$1,451,207	\$1,362,769	\$1,165,808	\$1,041,908
14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%	12.00%	12.00%
\$0	\$8,346	\$7,738	\$7,150	\$6,828	\$6,600
0	(8,346)	(7,738)	(7,150)	(6,828)	(6,600)
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$0	\$59,614	\$55,271	\$55,000	\$56,900	\$55,000
0.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%	12.00%	12.00%
\$1,823	\$1,781	\$2,185	\$15,999	\$26,330	
(1,823)	(1,781)	(2,185)	(15,999)	(26,330)	
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
\$1,610,257	\$1,594,543	\$1,506,478	\$1,417,777	\$1,222,708	
0.11%	0.11%	0.15%	1.13%	2.15%	

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of City Contributions*  
*Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund*  
*Last Ten Years*

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Net Pension Liability</b>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$173,934	\$135,043	\$140,681	\$115,661
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(173,934)</u>	<u>(135,043)</u>	<u>(140,681)</u>	<u>(115,661)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
City Covered Payroll (1)	\$869,887	\$676,617	\$703,886	\$575,226
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>20.00%</u>	<u>19.96%</u>	<u>19.99%</u>	<u>20.11%</u>
<b>Net OPEB Liability</b>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$4,350	\$3,383	\$3,158	\$2,877
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(4,350)</u>	<u>(3,383)</u>	<u>(3,158)</u>	<u>(2,877)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>0.50%</u>	<u>0.50%</u>	<u>0.45%</u>	<u>0.50%</u>
Total Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>20.50%</u>	<u>20.46%</u>	<u>20.44%</u>	<u>20.61%</u>

(1) The City's covered payroll is the same for Pension and OPEB.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
\$118,255	\$97,146	\$95,380	\$91,613	\$92,657	\$89,864
<u>(118,255)</u>	<u>(97,146)</u>	<u>(95,380)</u>	<u>(91,613)</u>	<u>(92,657)</u>	<u>(89,864)</u>
<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
\$587,056	\$476,643	\$472,109	\$448,713	\$454,728	\$440,284
<u>20.14%</u>	<u>20.38%</u>	<u>20.20%</u>	<u>20.42%</u>	<u>20.38%</u>	<u>20.41%</u>
\$2,935	\$2,384	\$2,361	\$2,243	\$2,273	\$2,201
<u>(2,935)</u>	<u>(2,384)</u>	<u>(2,361)</u>	<u>(2,243)</u>	<u>(92,657)</u>	<u>(89,864)</u>
<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$90,384)</u>	<u>(\$87,663)</u>
<u>0.50%</u>	<u>0.50%</u>	<u>0.50%</u>	<u>0.50%</u>	<u>0.50%</u>	<u>0.50%</u>
<u>20.64%</u>	<u>20.88%</u>	<u>20.70%</u>	<u>20.92%</u>	<u>20.88%</u>	<u>20.91%</u>



**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

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**Changes in Assumptions – OPERS Pension – Traditional Plan**

Amounts reported beginning in 2022 incorporate changes in assumptions used by OPERS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions compared with those used in prior years are presented below:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2019 through 2021</u>	<u>2018 and 2017</u>	<u>2016 and prior</u>
Wage Inflation	2.75 percent	3.25 percent	3.25 percent	3.75 percent
Future Salary Increases	2.75 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation	3.25 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation	3.25 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation	4.25 to 10.05 percent including wage inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA:				
Pre-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3 percent, simple	3 percent, simple	3 percent, simple	3 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees	see below	see below	see below	see below
Investment Rate of Return	6.9 percent	7.2 percent	7.5 percent	8 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

The assumptions related to COLA or Ad Hoc COLA for Post-January 7, 2013, retirees are as follows:

COLA or Ad Hoc COLA, Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees:

2024	2.3 percent, simple through 2024, then 2.05 percent, simple
2023	3.0 percent, simple through 2023 then 2.05 percent, simple
2022	3.0 percent, simple through 2022 then 2.05 percent, simple
2021	0.5 percent, simple through 2021 then 2.15 percent, simple
2020	1.4 percent, simple through 2020 then 2.15 percent, simple
2017 through 2019	3.0 percent, simple through 2018 then 2.15 percent, simple
2016 and prior	3.0 percent, simple through 2018 then 2.80 percent, simple 7.50 to 5.00 percent

Amounts reported beginning in 2022 use pre-retirement mortality rates based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all the previously described tables, the base year is 2010, and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all these tables.

Amounts reported for 2017 through 2021 use mortality rates based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant mortality table. For males, Healthy Annuitant Mortality tables were used, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base of 2006, and then established the base year as 2015. For females, Healthy Annuitant Mortality tables were used, adjusted for mortality improvements back to the

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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observation period base year of 2006, and then established the base year as 2010. The mortality rates used in evaluating disability allowances were based on the RP-2014 Disabled mortality tables, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation base year of 2006, and then established the base year as 2015 for males and 2010 for females. Mortality rates for a particular calendar year for both healthy and disabled retiree mortality tables are determined by applying the MP-2015 mortality improvement scale to the above described tables.

Amounts reported for 2016 and prior use mortality rates are based on the RP-2000 Mortality Table projected 20 years using Projection Scale AA. For males, 105 percent of the combined healthy male mortality rates were used. For females, 100 percent of the combined healthy female mortality rates were used. The mortality rates used in evaluating disability allowances were based on the RP-2000 mortality table with no projections. For males, 120 percent of the disabled female mortality rates were set forward two years. For females, 100 percent of the disabled female mortality rates were used.

**Changes in Assumptions – OPERS Pension – Combined Plan**

Amounts reported beginning in 2022 incorporate changes in assumptions used by OPERS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions, compared with those used in prior years, are presented below:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2019 through 2021</u>	<u>2018</u>
Wage Inflation	2.75 percent	3.25 percent	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases	2.75 to 8.25 percent including wage inflation	3.25 to 8.25 percent including wage inflation	3.25 to 8.25 percent including wage inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA:			
Pre-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3 percent, simple	3 percent, simple	3 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees	see below	see below	see below
Investment Rate of Return	6.9 percent	7.2 percent	7.5 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

Since 2020, the Combined Plan has had the same change in COLA or Ad Hoc COLA for Post-January 2, 2013, retirees as the Traditional Plan.

**Changes in Assumptions – OP&F Pension**

Amounts reported beginning in 2018 incorporate changes in assumptions used by OP&F in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions, compared with those used in 2017 and prior, are presented below:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
59 or less	35 %	35 %
60-69	60	45
70-79	75	70
80 and up	100	90

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	Beginning in 2018	2017 and Prior
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	See Below	See Below
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 percent to 10.5 percent	4.25 percent to 11 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent per annum, compounded annually, consisting of Inflation rate of 2.75 percent plus productivity increase rate of 0.5 percent	Inflation rate of 3.25 percent plus productivity increase rate of 0.5 percent
Cost of Living Adjustments	2.2 percent simple for increases based on the lesser of the increase in CPI and 3 percent	3.00 percent simple; 2.6 percent simple for increases based on the lesser of the increase in CPI and 3 percent

For 2017 and prior the investment rate of return was 8.25 percent. Beginning in 2018, the OP&F Board adopted a change in the investment rate of return, changing it from 8.25 percent for 2017 and prior to 8 percent. Beginning in 2022, the OP&F Board adopted a change in the investment rate of return, changing it from 8 percent for 2018 through 2021 to 7.5 percent for 2022 and forward.

Beginning in 2023, mortality for service retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Healthy Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 96.2 percent for males and 98.7 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Beginning in 2023, mortality for disabled retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Safety Amount-Weighted Disabled Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 135 percent for males and 97.9 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Beginning in 2023, mortality for contingent annuitants is based on the Pub- 2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Contingent Annuitant Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 108.9 percent for males and 131 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

Beginning in 2023, mortality for active members is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Employee mortality table. All rates are projected using the MP- 2021 Improvement Scale.

Prior to 2023, mortality for non-disabled participants is based on the RP-2014 Total Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale. Rates for surviving beneficiaries are adjusted by 120 percent.

Age	Police	Fire
67 or less	77 %	68 %
68-77	105	87
78 and up	115	120

Prior to 2023, mortality for disabled retirees is based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale.

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**Changes in Assumptions – OPERS OPEB**

Wage Inflation:	
Beginning in 2022	2.75 percent
2021 and prior	3.25 percent
Projected Salary Increases (including wage inflation):	
Beginning in 2022	2.75 to 10.75 percent
2021 and prior	3.25 to 10.75 percent
Investment Return Assumption:	
Beginning in 2019	6.00 percent
2018	6.50 percent
Municipal Bond Rate:	
2024	3.77 percent
2023	4.05 percent
2022	1.84 percent
2021	2.00 percent
2020	2.75 percent
2019	3.71 percent
2018	3.31 percent
Single Discount Rate:	
2024	5.70 percent
2023	5.22 percent
2022	6.00 percent
2021	6.00 percent
2020	3.16 percent
2019	3.96 percent
2018	3.85 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate:	
2024	5.50 percent, initial 3.5 percent, ultimate in 2038
2023	5.5 percent, initial 3.5 percent, ultimate in 2036
2022	5.5 percent, initial 3.5 percent, ultimate in 2034
2021	8.5 percent, initial 3.5 percent, ultimate in 2035
2020	10.5 percent, initial 3.5 percent, ultimate in 2030
2019	10.0 percent, initial 3.25 percent, ultimate in 2029
2018	7.5 percent, initial 3.25 percent, ultimate in 2028

**Changes in Assumptions – OP&F OPEB**

Blended Discount Rate:	
2024	4.07 percent
2023	4.27 percent
2022	2.84 percent
2021	2.96 percent
2020	3.56 percent
2019	4.66 percent
2018	3.24 percent

**City of Wellston, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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In 2022, the OP&F Board adopted a change in the investment rate of return, changing it from 8 percent for 2018 through 2021 to 7.5 percent.

**Changes in Benefit Terms – OPERS OPEB**

On January 15, 2020, the Board approved several changes to the health care plan offered to Medicare and non-Medicare retirees in efforts to decrease costs and increase the solvency of the health care plan. These changes are effective January 1, 2022, and include changes to base allowances and eligibility for Medicare retirees, as well as replacing OPERS-sponsored medical plans for non-Medicare retirees with monthly allowances, similar to the program for Medicare retirees. These changes are reflected in 2021.

**Changes in Benefit Terms – OP&F OPEB**

For 2019, OP&F recognized a change in benefit terms. Under this new model, OP&F provides eligible retirees with a fixed stipend earmarked to pay for health care and Medicare Part B reimbursements. This new model replaced the self-insured health care plan used in prior years.



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

City of Wellston  
Jackson County  
203 East Broadway Street  
Wellston, Ohio 45692

To the City Council:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (Government Auditing Standards), the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Wellston, Jackson County, Ohio (the City) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated September 2, 2025.

***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City'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 City's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

***Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City'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 is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-001.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BHM CPA Group". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

BHM CPA Group, Inc  
Portsmouth, Ohio  
September 2, 2025

**CITY OF WELLSTON, OHIO  
JACKSON COUNTY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2024-001**

**Noncompliance**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B)(1) states that “No subdivision or taxing unit shall make any expenditure of money unless the fiscal officer of the subdivision or taxing authority has certified that all of the following apply:

- (a) The expenditure has been appropriated as provided in Chapter 5705. of the Revised Code;
- (b) The expenditure has been appropriated by the subdivision's or taxing unit's legislative authority;
- (c) The expenditure is not compelled by a process authorizing management, control, distribution, or disbursement of an appropriation or expenditure by a vote of the subdivision's or taxing unit's residents.”

On December 31, 2024 the City's budgetary expenditures for the General, Fire Levy and County Sales Tax funds exceeded appropriated amounts by \$122,769, \$38,504 and \$24,539, respectively.

Failure to limit spending to established appropriations could allow for deficit spending practices, resulting in deficit fund balances.

The City should draft, approve, and implement procedures to periodically review spending and make amendments to the appropriations throughout the year when appropriations need to be increased as to not allow actual expenditures to exceed appropriations.

**Official's Response:** We received no response from officials regarding this finding.



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**CITY OF WELLSTON**

**JACKSON 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 1/27/2026**

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)