# **REGULAR AUDIT**

# FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007-2006



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Cover Letter	1
Independent Accountants' Report	3
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balance- General Fund For the Years Ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	13
Schedule of Findings	15

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District Knox County 8599 Horn Road Gambier, Ohio 43022

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your District to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statement you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Mary Jaylo

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

August 18, 2008

88 E. Broad St. / Tenth Floor / Columbus, OH 43215-3506 Telephone: (614) 466-3402 (800) 443-9275 Fax: (614) 728-7199 www.auditor.state.oh.us This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

# INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District Knox County 8599 Horn Road Gambier, Ohio 43022

To the Board of Trustees

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District, Knox County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. This financial statement is the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The District processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the District because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District has prepared this financial statement using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statement of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the District's larger (i.e. fund) separately. While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require Districts to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District Knox County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statement referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 does not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance and reserves for encumbrances of the Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District, Knox County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

During 2006, the District changed its financial statement presentation method to conform to presentation methods the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

The District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 18, 2008, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

Mary Jaylo

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

August 18, 2008

# STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN CASH BALANCE FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND DECEMBER 31, 2006

	2007	2006
<b>Cash Receipts:</b> Property and Other Local Taxes Integovernmental Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	\$ 962,023 213,185 34,334 18,902	\$ 937,823 165,444 33,049 37,643
Total Cash Receipts	1,228,444	1,173,959
Cash Disbursements: Current Disbursements: Public Safety Capital Outlay Debt Service: Redemption of Principal Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	976,737 508,434 5,834 1,436	990,609 118,180 0 0
Total Cash Disbursements	1,492,441	1,108,789
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(263,997)	65,170
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements): Debt Proceeds Sale of Fixed Assets Other Financing Sources Other Financing Uses	150,000 3,255 969 (85)	31,915 8,155 7,395 0
Total Other Financing Receipts	154,139	47,465
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	(109,858)	112,635
Cash Balance, January 1	598,208	485,573
Cash Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 488.350</u>	<u>\$ 598,208</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$ 109,926	\$ 29,092

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

This page intentionally left blank.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

# 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

# A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District, Knox County, Ohio (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A nine-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member and the final Board member is selected at-large. Those subdivisions are Brown Township, Butler Township, Harrison Township, Howard Township, Jefferson Township, Union Township, Village of Danville, and Village of Gann. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District.

The District's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

# B. Accounting Basis

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

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

# C. Cash and Investments

The District maintains a checking account, certificates of deposit, and an account with STAR Ohio.

# D. Fund Accounting

The District maintains one operating fund:

# 1. General Fund

The General Fund accounts for all financial resources of the District.

# E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that the General Fund be budgeted annually.

# 1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (continued)

#### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### E. Budgetary Process (continued)

appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

#### 2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

#### 3. Encumbrances

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

A summary of 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

# F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

#### G. Accumulated Leave

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

#### 2. Cash and Investments

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

	2007	2006
Demand deposits	\$583	\$6,575
STAR Ohio	273,017	491,633
Certificates of Deposit (Investment)	214,750	100,000
Total deposits and investments	\$488,350	\$598,208

**Deposits:** Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (continued)

# 3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2007 & December 31, 2006 follows:

2007 Buc	dgeted vs. Actual	Receipts	
	Budgeted	Actual	
	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
Total	\$1,252,527	\$1,382,668	\$130,141
2007 Budgeted vs.	Actual Budgetary	Basis Expenditure	es
	Appropriation	Budgetary	
	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
Total	\$1,821,643	\$1,602,452	\$219,191
2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
2000 Bdd	Budgeted	Actual	
	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
Total	\$1,167,920	\$1,221,424	\$53,504
2006 Budgeted vs. /	Actual Budgetan	Basis Expenditure	
	Appropriation	Budgetary	,5
	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
Total	\$1,541,348	\$1,137,881	\$403,467

# 4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (continued)

# 5. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Grass Fire Truck Lease Purchase	\$26,081	4.5%
Fire Engine USDA Bond	150,000	4.25%
Total	\$176,081	

The District entered into a lease-purchase for a new grass fire truck and issued bonds through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to finance a new fire engine. The lease-purchase agreement is collateralized by the equipment and the District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds. The lease was entered into on February 9, 2006 in the amount of \$31,915. The bonds were issued on July 31, 2007 in the amount of \$150,000 and mature in July 2017.

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

	Fire Engine	Grass Fire
Year ending December 31:	Bond	Truck Lease
2008	\$18,427	\$7,270
2009	18,752	7,270
2010	18,704	7,270
2011	18,734	7,270
2012	18,740	0
2013-2017	93,650	0
Total	\$187,007	\$29,082

# 6. Retirement Systems

The District's certified Fire Fighters belong to the Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). Other employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OP&F and OPERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes these plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007 and 2006, OP&F participants contributed 10% of their wages. For 2007 and 2006, the District contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24% of full-time fire fighters' wages. For 2007 and 2006, OPERS members contributed 9.75% and 9%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 17.17 and 16.93%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (continued)

# 7. Risk Management

# **Commercial Insurance**

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

This page intentionally left blank



Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

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

Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District Knox County 8599 Horn Road Gambier, Ohio 43022

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statement of the Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District, Knox County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated August 18, 2008, wherein we noted the District changed their financial presentation and prepared its financial statement using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted the District uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the District. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

# Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District Knox County Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

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

We consider the following deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting: 2007-002.

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

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. However, we believe finding number 2007-002 is also a material weakness.

# **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* as item: 2007-001.

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

Mary Jaylo

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

August 18, 2008

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

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

# FINDING NUMBER 2007-001

# **Noncompliance Citation:**

# **Certification of Funds**

**Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1)** prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer Clerk must certify that the amount required to meet such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due therein.

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

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

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

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

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

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the District's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the District. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

# SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

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

# FINDING NUMBER 2007-001 (Continued)

# Noncompliance Citation (Continued):

# **Certification of Funds (Continued)**

In FY06, the Clerk did not properly certify funds prior to incurring the obligation in 8 of 34 (24%) transactions tested. Three of these transactions tested included the improper use of "Then and Now" Certificates.

In FY07, the Clerk did not certify funds prior to incurring the obligation in 5 of 21(24%) transactions tested.

We recommend the Clerk certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Clerk should sign the certification at the time the District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Clerk should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation. If prior certification is not possible, the Clerk should issue a "Then and Now" certificate. The Clerk should also obtain subsequent approval from the Board when issuing a "Then and Now" certificate in excess of \$3,000.

# FINDING NUMBER 2007-002

# Financial Statement Presentation – Significant Deficiency/Material Weakness

A monitoring system should be in place to prevent or detect material misstatements for the accurate presentation of the District's financial statements.

The Clerk did not always accurately post receipts and disbursements to the District's accounting system. The following posting errors were noted:

- Intergovernmental receipts were posted as miscellaneous (2006- \$5,509, 2007- \$4,395)
- Debt proceeds were posted as other financing sources in 2006 (\$31,915)
- Debt proceeds were posted as intergovernmental in 2007 (\$150,000)
- Sale of Fixed Assets receipts were posted as miscellaneous (2006- \$8,155, 2007- \$3,255)
- Various refunds were posted as other sources rather than as miscellaneous receipts (2006-\$12,749, 2007- \$1,137)
- Interest and Other Fiscal Charges and Redemption of Principal were posted in error of (\$549) -2007.

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

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

# FINDING NUMBER 2007-002 (Continued)

# **Financial Statement Presentation (Continued)**

Not posting receipts and expenditures accurately to the ledgers resulted in the financial statement requiring audit reclassification entries; furthermore, inaccurate accounting records could make it difficult for the District's Board to effectively manage and budget for the District's activities.

We recommend the District Clerk take steps to ensure the accurate posting of all transactions to the ledgers. Cash receipts and disbursements should be posted in accordance with procedures and posting guidelines established in the Uniform Accounting Network line item descriptions and AOS Bulletins. By exercising accuracy in recording financial activity, the District can reduce posting errors and increase the reliability of the financial data throughout the year.

We also recommend the District implement additional procedures over the completeness and accuracy of financial information reported within the annual financial report. Such procedures may include review of the financial statements and related components with analytical comparisons of the current year annual report to the prior year reports for obvious errors or omissions.

The District's financial statements have been adjusted to reflect the reclassifications noted above.

#### Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials to the findings reported above.





# EASTERN KNOX COUNTY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

**KNOX COUNTY** 

# **CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

Susan Babbitt

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU** 

CERTIFIED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008