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Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District Jackson County P.O. Box 378 Oak Hill, Ohio 45656

Mary Taylor

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 government 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 statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

June 17, 2008

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District Jackson County P.O. Box 378 Oak Hill, Ohio 45656

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District, Jackson County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements 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. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District has prepared these financial statements 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 statements 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., major) funds 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 fire 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.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 do 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.

743 E. State St. / Athens Mall Suite B / Athens, OH 45701-2157 Telephone: (740) 594-3300 (800) 441-1389 Fax: (740) 594-2110 www.auditor.state.oh.us Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District Jackson County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance of Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District, Jackson County, 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.

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 June 17, 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 Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

June 17, 2008

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Cash Receipts: Property and Other Local Taxes Intergovernmental Charges for Services Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	\$114,484 26,077 30,200 1,689 2,213
Total Cash Receipts	174,663
Cash Disbursements: Current Disbursements: General Government Public Safety Captial Outlay Debt Service: Redemption of Principal	23,594 66,142 38,857 22,000
Total Cash Disbursements	150,593
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	24,070
Cash Balance, January 1	140,351
Cash Balance, December 31	\$164.421

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

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006

Cash Receipts: Property and Other Local Taxes Intergovernmental Charges for Services Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous Donation	\$116,040 19,106 27,361 1,336 3,686 15,000
Total Cash Receipts	182,529
Cash Disbursements: Current Disbursements: General Government Public Safety Captial Outlay Debt Service: Redemption of Principal Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	26,646 69,453 86,981 61,694 1,394
Total Cash Disbursements	246,168
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(63,639)
Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements): Other Debt Proceeds	66,000
Total Other Financing Receipts / (Disbursements)	66,000
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	2,361
Cash Balance, January 1	137,990
Cash Balance, December 31	\$140,351

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 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 Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District, Jackson County (the District), as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Three Board members are appointed by the firefighters association. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member; those subdivisions are Madison and Jefferson Townships. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

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

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow 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).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Investments

The District has one checking account and a certificate of deposit, which is valued at cost.

D. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Budgetary Process (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. The District did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

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

E. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. Cash

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

	2007	2006
Demand deposits	\$147,421	\$123,351
Certificates of deposit	17,000	17,000
Total deposits	\$164,421	\$140,351

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the District.

3. Budgetary Activity

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

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts					
Budgeted Actual					
	Receipts	Receipts	Variance		
	\$148,828	\$174,663	\$25,835		

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures				
Appropriation	Budgetary			
Authority	Expenditures	Variance		
\$133,100	\$150,593	(\$17,493)		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

3. Budgetary Activity (continued)

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts				
Budgeted Actual				
Receipts	Receipts	Variance		
\$183,300	\$248,529	\$65,229		

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures				
Appropriation	Budgetary			
Authority	Expenditures	Variance		
\$181,600	\$246,168	(\$64,568)		

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority by \$17,493 and \$64,568 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

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.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the District.

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.

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

5. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Fire Equipment Lease Purchase Agreeement	\$44,000	0%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

5. Debt (Continued)

The District entered into a Fire Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement with the Madison-Jefferson Firefighters Association, Inc., for the purchase of a 1998 fire pumper truck. The note was issued to the Association on July 29, 2006 in the amount of \$90,160 and matures on July 29, 2009. The note is collateralized solely by the truck. The purchase agreement states that the District is to pay \$22,000 yearly with semi-annual payments commencing January 20, 2007 and continuing each six months thereafter to the conclusion of this agreement, at which time the title of such equipment shall be transferred to the District for the consideration of one dollar.

Amortization of the above debt is scheduled as follows:

	Fire	
	Equipment	
	Lease	
Year ending	Purchase	
December 31:	Agreement	
2008	\$22,000	
2009	22,000	
Total	\$44,000	

6. Retirement System

The District's fiscal officer belongs to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007 and 2006, OPERS member employees contributed 9.5% and 9%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 13.85% and 13.7%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

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.



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

Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District Jackson County P.O. Box 378 Oak Hill, Ohio 45656

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Madison-Jefferson Joint Fire District, Jackson County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated June 17, 2008, wherein we noted the District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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.

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: 2007-003.

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.

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Our consideration of the 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 the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. However, of the significant deficiency described above, we believe finding number 2007-003 is also a material weakness.

We also noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 17, 2008.

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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2007-001 and 2007-002

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated June 17, 2008.

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

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

June 17, 2008

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

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

FINDING NUMBER 2007-001

Noncompliance Citation

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 must certify that the amount required to meet any 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.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The <u>main</u> 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 District 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 Fiscal officers 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.

The Fiscal Officer's certification of the availability of funds was not completed for any of the disbursements during the audit period. Further, funds were not encumbered during the audit period. Failure to certify the availability of funds properly can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

FINDING NUMBER 2007-001 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation - Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)

Unless the District uses the exceptions noted above, prior certification is not only required by statute but also 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 the Fiscal Officer certify that funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the District. When prior certification is not possible, 'then and now' certification should be utilized.

We recommend the District officials and employees obtain the Fiscal Officer's certification of the availability of funds prior to the commitment being incurred. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language Section 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase orders to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

FINDING NUMBER 2007-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision or taxing unit from expending money unless it has been appropriated.

Disbursements exceeded appropriations as follows:

Date	Appropriations	Disbursements	Variance
December 31, 2007	\$133,100	\$150,593	(\$17,493)
December 31, 2006	181,600	246,168	(64,568)

As of December 31, 2006, the District did not post the proceeds of notes and the related capital outlay expenditures when issuing debt. The audited financial statements, as adjusted to record the debt proceeds and related expenditure, result in the variance noted above for 2006.

We recommend the Fiscal Officer request the Board of Trustees to approve increased expenditure levels by increasing appropriations and amending estimated resources, if necessary, when it is apparent that expenditures will exceed appropriations. We also recommend the Fiscal Officer obtain an amended certificate of estimated resources when notes are issued and request the Board of Trustees to approve a corresponding increase in appropriations to allow for the related capital outlay expenditure.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006 (Continued)

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

FINDING NUMBER 2007-003

Material Weakness

Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-02(D)(3) provides that an appropriation ledger, which may assemble and classify disbursements into separate accounts for, at a minimum, each account listed in the appropriation resolution should be used to maintain accounting records. The amount, fund, date, check number, purchase order number, encumbrance amount, unencumbered balance, amount of disbursement, and any other information required may be entered in the appropriate columns.

An appropriation ledger was not maintained for 2006 or 2007. This resulted in a lack of detailed records for budgetary information.

Each District should maintain an appropriation ledger which should contain a separate account for each type of appropriation. A separate sheet should be used in the ledger for each account, and the code prescribed for tat account should be entered on the ledger sheet. The District should post to each appropriation account an amount equal to the amount appropriated for that account in the annual appropriation resolution(s).

Each expenditure or encumbrance charged against an appropriation account should be posted and subtracted from the appropriated balance producing a declining unencumbered balance. This procedure is to be initiated by an executed purchase order. The name of the vendor or payee, as it appears on the purchase order, is entered in the "Debit" column and also subtracted from the unencumbered balance. When the invoice is received from the vendor or payee and a warrant is written to meet the obligation, the name of the vendor or payee is again entered and the amount of the warrant is entered in the "Amount of Check" column. If the amount encumbered and the amount of the warrant is exactly the same, no other entry is made. However, if the amount entered in the "Debit" column (this is also the same amount subtracted from the unencumbered balance) is different from the amount of the warrant, an adjustment must be made. If the amount of the warrant is entered in the "Debit" column, the difference should be entered in the "Credit" column and added to the unencumbered balance column.

If there is a standing order or if the invoice is to be paid at the time the purchase order is written, then the name of the vendor or payee is entered, and the amount to be paid is entered in the "Amount of Check" column, in the "Debit" column and subtracted from the encumbered balance. Appropriate columns should be totaled and reconciled monthly and year-to-date. The date, vendor or payee, warrant number, purchase order number and other information required should be entered in the appropriate column or space provided on the appropriation ledger.

We recommend the Fiscal Officer maintain an appropriation ledger in the manner specified above.

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

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2005-001	Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) - funds were not certified as available prior to commitment.	No	Not Corrected - Reissued as Finding Number 2007-001
2005-002	Appropriation ledger was not maintained.	No	Not Corrected - Reissued as Finding Number 2007-003



MADISON-JEFFERSON JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

JACKSON 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.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED JULY 8, 2008