



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
P.O. Box 104
Kitts Hill, Ohio 45645

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Township, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Township on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 22, 2025, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
May 22, 2025

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Lawrence Township*Lawrence County, Ohio**Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)**All Governmental Fund Types**For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$120,709	\$105,547		\$226,256
Licenses, Permits and Fees	2,686			2,686
Intergovernmental	25,552	157,736	47,759	231,047
Earnings on Investments	13,680	14,585		28,265
Miscellaneous	3,168	30,988		34,156
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>165,795</u>	<u>308,856</u>	<u>47,759</u>	<u>522,410</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	87,999	22,166		110,165
Public Safety		106,997		106,997
Public Works		224,440		224,440
Capital Outlay			47,759	47,759
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement		20,200		20,200
Interest and Fiscal Charges		816		816
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>87,999</u>	<u>374,619</u>	<u>47,759</u>	<u>510,377</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>77,796</u>	<u>(65,763)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,033</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>77,796</u>	<u>(65,763)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,033</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>232,229</u>	<u>617,523</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>849,752</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$310,025</u>	<u>\$551,760</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$861,785</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance. The Township contracts with the Lawrence Township Vol. Fire Department to provide fire services.

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

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. This organization is the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). This is a risk sharing pool available to all townships for property and casualty insurance coverage.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types.

Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

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

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Fire District Fund The fire district fund is restricted to monies received for the Fire Department only.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

Budgetary Process

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

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

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

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 12.

Note 3 – Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Fire District Fund in the amount of \$6,472 for the year ending December 31, 2024.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2024 follows:

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$142,903	\$165,795	\$22,892
Special Revenue	192,936	308,856	115,920
Capital Projects	47,759	47,759	0
Total	<u>\$383,598</u>	<u>\$522,410</u>	<u>\$138,812</u>

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$126,923	\$88,579	\$38,344
Special Revenue	443,210	375,876	67,334
Capital Projects	47,759	47,759	0
Total	<u>\$617,892</u>	<u>\$512,214</u>	<u>\$105,678</u>

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

Note 5 – Deposits

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

	2024
Demand Deposits	\$861,785

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2024, the Township is holding \$0 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 6 – Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 7 – Risk Management

Risk Pool Management

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

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability

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

- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

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

<u>2023 – Most recent</u>	
Cash and investments	\$33,494,457
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,885,549

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some Township employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. For calendar year 2024, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2024, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

Note 10 – Debt

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

	Principal	Interest Rate
2021 Truck Acquisition Bond	\$20,600	2%
Total	<u><u>\$20,600</u></u>	

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

The Township issued a Truck Acquisition bond in the amount of \$80,000 during 2021 to finance the purchase of a new truck for township road maintenance.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	Truck Acquisition Bond
2025	21,012

Note 11 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township is not currently party to legal proceedings.

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 12 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	580	1,257	1,837
Total	\$580	\$1,257	\$1,837

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Lawrence Township*Lawrence County, Ohio*

*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$119,779	\$104,762	\$224,541
Licenses, Permits and Fees	1,542		1,542
Intergovernmental	25,801	214,430	240,231
Earnings on Investments	2,631	3,142	5,773
Miscellaneous	<u>27,779</u>		<u>27,779</u>
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>177,532</u>	<u>322,334</u>	<u>499,866</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	55,273	108,385	163,658
Public Safety		115,543	115,543
Public Works		84,950	84,950
Principal Retirement		19,800	19,800
Interest and Fiscal Charges	<u>1,212</u>		<u>1,212</u>
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>55,273</u>	<u>329,890</u>	<u>385,163</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>122,259</u>	<u>(7,556)</u>	<u>114,703</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	122,259	(7,556)	114,703
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>109,970</u>	<u>625,079</u>	<u>735,049</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$232,229</u> #	<u>\$617,523</u>	<u>\$849,752</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance. The Township contracts with the Lawrence Township Vol. Fire Department to provide fire services.

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

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. This organization is the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). This is a risk sharing pool available to all townships for property and casualty insurance coverage.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types.

Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

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

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Fire District Fund The fire district fund is restricted to monies received for the Fire Department only.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

Budgetary Process

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

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 12.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$117,766	\$177,532	\$59,766
Special Revenue	240,413	322,334	81,921
Total	<u>\$358,179</u>	<u>\$499,866</u>	<u>\$141,687</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$114,773	\$55,922	\$58,851
Special Revenue	590,409	331,397	259,012
Total	<u>\$705,182</u>	<u>\$387,319</u>	<u>\$317,863</u>

Note 4 – Deposits

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

	2023
Demand deposits	\$849,752

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2023, the Township is holding \$0 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

Risk Pool Management

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

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

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

2023

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Cash and investments	\$33,494,457
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,885,549

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some Township employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2023, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
2021 Truck Acquisition Bond	\$40,800	2%
Total	<u><u>\$40,800</u></u>	

The Township issued a Truck Acquisition bond in the amount of \$80,000 during 2021 to finance the purchase of a new truck for township road maintenance.

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	Truck	
	Acquisition Bond	
2024		\$21,016
2025		21,012
Total		<u><u>\$42,028</u></u>

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township is not currently party to legal proceedings.

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	649	1,507	2,156
Total	<u><u>\$649</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,507</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,156</u></u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.



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

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
P.O. Box 104
Kitts Hill, Ohio 45645

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Lawrence Township, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated May 22, 2025, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2024-001 and 2024-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Lawrence Township
Lawrence County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Township's Response to Findings

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

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
May 22, 2025

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Material Weakness

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

Due to deficiencies in internal control related to financial reporting, the Township misclassified and misposted various receipts and disbursements in the annual financial report submitted to the Auditor of State for fiscal years 2024 and 2023. These misstatements had the following effect on the Township's financial statements:

December 31, 2024 Financial Statements:

- Ohio Public Works on behalf of grant and related payment were posted in the Gasoline Tax Fund instead of the Capital Projects Fund. This caused the Capital Projects Fund Intergovernmental Receipts and Capital Outlay Disbursements to be understated by \$47,759 and the Gasoline Tax Fund Intergovernmental Receipts and Capital Outlay Disbursements to be overstated by \$47,759.
- A Principal payment in the amount of \$20,200 and interest in the amount of \$816 were posted as Public Works disbursements in the Motor Vehicle License Fund.

December 31, 2023 Financial Statements:

- A receipt for Insurance proceeds for tractor replacement in the amount of \$24,153 was posted to Extraordinary Item instead of Miscellaneous Revenue in the General Fund.
- A receipt for MARCS grant in the amount of \$50,000 was posted to Miscellaneous Receipts instead of Intergovernmental in the Fire District Fund.
- A Principal payment in the amount of \$19,800 and interest in the amount of \$1,212 were posted as Public Works disbursements in the Motor Vehicle License Fund.

The Township has adjusted the financial statements and accounting system, where appropriate, to correct these errors.

To ensure the Township's financial statements and notes to the financial statements are complete and accurate, the Township should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the statements and footnotes by the Township Fiscal Officer and Board of Trustees to identify and correct errors and omissions. The Township Fiscal Officer should also refer to the Ohio Township Handbook and Auditor of State Bulletins 2000-008 and 2002-004 and take due care in posting transactions in order to ensure the annual financial statements reflect the appropriate activity for the Township's receipts and disbursements.

Officials' Response:

The Township will strive to correct this in the future.

FINDING NUMBER 2024-002

Material Weakness

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

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

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

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

Variances between approved budgetary appropriation amounts and amounts recorded in the Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) system at December 31, 2024 were as follows:

Fund	Approved Appropriations	Appropriations in UAN System	Difference
Fire District Fund	\$103,001	\$113,001	(\$10,000)

Variances between estimated receipt amounts from the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and amounts recorded in the UAN system at December 31, 2024 were as follows:

Fund	Estimated Receipts from Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources	Estimated Receipts in UAN System	Difference
Fire District Fund	\$101,594	\$90,501	\$11,093

FINDING NUMBER 2024-002
(Continued)

Variances between estimated receipt amounts from the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and amounts recorded in the UAN system of December 31, 2023 were as follows:

Fund	Estimated Receipts from Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources	Estimated Receipts in UAN system	Variance
General	\$117,766	\$110,803	\$6,963
Fire District Fund	\$101,210	\$115,100	(\$13,890)

The Township did not have procedures in place to accurately post authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The appropriations approved by the Board were not properly posted to the accounting system. Additionally, the estimated receipts from the approved Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources (and/or amendments thereof) were not accurately posted to the accounting system.

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

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

Officials' Response:

The Township will strive to correct this in the future.

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LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
LAWRENCE COUNTY

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Material Weakness – Sound Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding 2024-001.
2022-002	Material Weakness – Budgetary Information	Partially Corrected	Reissued as Finding 2024-002.
2022-003	Noncompliance Citation – Ohio Rev. Code §5705.41(B): Expenditures in excess of appropriations	Not Corrected	Reissued in Management Letter.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

LAWRENCE 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 6/10/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov