



**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001-2000**



**JIM PETRO**  
**AUDITOR OF STATE**  

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**STATE OF OHIO**



**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Northwest Ambulance District  
Ashtabula County  
1324 Harpersfield Road  
Geneva, Ohio 44041

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Northwest Ambulance District, Ashtabula County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the District prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of the District, as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 22, 2002 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 grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management, the Board of Trustees, and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

**Jim Petro**  
Auditor of State

February 22, 2002

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**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH  
DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001**

	<b>Governmental Fund Type</b>
	<b>General</b>
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>	
Local Taxes	\$477,013
Charges for Services	121,999
Earnings on Investments	14,064
Miscellaneous	30,442
	643,518
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>	
Salaries	327,544
Supplies and Materials	31,282
Equipment	10,948
Repairs	15,332
Services	33,980
Insurance	67,389
Other	90,850
	577,325
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	66,193
<b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>	
Proceeds from Sale of Public Debt:	
Sale of Bonds	540,000
	540,000
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements & Other Financing Disbursements	606,193
Fund Cash Balances January 1	399,420
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<b>\$1,005,613</b>

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

**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH  
DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000**

	<b>Governmental Fund Type</b>
	<b>General</b>
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>	
Local Taxes	\$471,951
Charges for Services	106,876
Earnings on Investments	7,454
Miscellaneous	13,557
Total Cash Receipts	599,838
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>	
Salaries	306,018
Supplies and Materials	27,842
Equipment	16,960
Repairs	19,628
Services	32,732
Insurance	55,040
Land and Building	17,115
Other Disbursements	29,678
Total Disbursements	505,013
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	94,825
Fund Cash Balances January 1	304,595
Fund Cash Balances December 31	<b>\$399,420</b>

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

**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Description of the Entity**

Northwest Ambulance District, Ashtabula County, (the District) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The District is directed by an appointed four-member Board of Trustees. One Board member is appointed by each political subdivision within the District. Those subdivisions are, Harpersfield Township, Geneva Township, Austinburg Township and Geneva City. The District provides 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. Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized 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).

**C. Cash and Investments**

The District maintained a general operating account.

**D. Fund Accounting**

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The District maintains only one fund (general operating) to account for all financial resources.

**1. General Fund**

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**E. Budgetary Process**

**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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000  
(Continued)**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**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 commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2001 and 2000 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**F. Property, Plant and Equipment**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as capital outlay disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

**G. Unpaid Vacation and Sick Leave**

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the basis of accounting used by the District.

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED 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 follows:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Demand deposits	\$ 1,005,613	\$ 399,420

**Deposits:** Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2001 and 2000 follows:

Fund Type	2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 550,758	\$ 1,183,518	\$ 632,760

**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000  
(Continued)**

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

2001 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 860,000	\$ 577,325	\$ 282,675

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 452,905	\$ 599,838	\$ 146,933

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 742,000	\$ 505,013	\$ 236,987

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, 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, 2001 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 540,000	5%

**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2000  
(Continued)**

**5. DEBT (Continued)**

The District issued general obligation bonds to finance the construction, furnishing, and equipping a building to house ambulance district operations. The bonds were issued on June 27, 2001 in the amount of \$540,000 and have maturities through May 7, 2007. The bonds are collateralized solely by the District's taxing authority.

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

Year ending December 31:	General Obligation Bonds
2002	\$ 139,220
2003	124,068
2004	119,311
2005	114,554
2006	109,796
2007	<u>11,685</u>
Total	<u>\$ 618,634</u>

**6. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

The District's full-time employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. It is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2001 and 2000, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries, of which 6% was picked-up by the District. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for the period under audit, except for the time frame between July 2000 and December 2000, where the rate was 8.13% based on PER'S Temporary Employer Contribution Rate Rollback. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2001.

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not covered by PERS, have an option to choose Social Security or the PERS. All of the District's employees were covered by PERS.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

The District also provides health insurance and dental and vision coverage to full-time employees through a private carrier.



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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL  
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Northwest Ambulance District  
Ashtabula County  
1324 Harpersfield Road  
Geneva, Ohio 44041

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Northwest Ambulance District, Ashtabula County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated February 22, 2002. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

**Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the District in a separate letter dated February 22, 2001.

Northwest Ambulance District  
Ashtabula County  
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on  
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*  
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This report is intended for the information and use of the management, the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

**Jim Petro**  
Auditor of State

February 22, 2002



STATE OF OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR  

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**NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

**ASHTABULA 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  
MARCH 21, 2002**