



**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 - 2022**



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Board of Trustees
Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District
6776 Wedgewood Road
Medina, OH 44256

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District, Medina County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 04, 2025

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**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis) – All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	4
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	5
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis) – All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	12
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	13
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	21
Schedule of Audit Findings	23
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	25

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District
Medina County
6776 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256

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 Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District, Medina County, Ohio (the District), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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, 2023 and 2022, 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 District, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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 District, 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.

Marietta, OH

St. Clairsville, OH

Cambridge, OH

Wheeling, WV

Vienna, WV

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 District 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 District'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 the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *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 District'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 District'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 December 2, 2024, 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. 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 District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry & Associates CPA A.C." The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Perry & Associates" on the top line and "CPA A.C." on the bottom line.

Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

December 2, 2024

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Combined Total
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 547,337	\$ -	\$ 720,017	\$ 1,267,354
Charges for Services	134,319	-	-	134,319
Intergovernmental	74,644	50,834	10,675	136,153
Miscellaneous	38,966	-	-	38,966
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<i>795,266</i>	<i>50,834</i>	<i>730,692</i>	<i>1,576,792</i>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current Disbursements:				
General Government	26,917	-	9,558	36,475
Public Safety	820,784	27,938	-	848,722
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	366,000	366,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	68,674	68,674
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<i>847,701</i>	<i>27,938</i>	<i>444,232</i>	<i>1,319,871</i>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<i>(52,435)</i>	<i>22,896</i>	<i>286,460</i>	<i>256,921</i>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Capital Assets	7,000	-	-	7,000
Other Financing Uses	(19,692)	-	-	(19,692)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<i>(12,692)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(12,692)</i>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<i>(65,127)</i>	<i>22,896</i>	<i>286,460</i>	<i>244,229</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balance, January 1</i>	<i>918,441</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>332,752</i>	<i>1,251,193</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balance, December 31</i>	<i>\$ 853,314</i>	<i>\$ 22,896</i>	<i>\$ 619,212</i>	<i>\$ 1,495,422</i>

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

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina 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 Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District, Medina County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The District participates in a public entity risk pool, the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio Local Governments. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for this entity.

Related Organization

The District is associated with the Village of Gloria Glens Park, a related organization. Note 11 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

Fund Accounting

The District 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 District 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 District 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 District had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Ohio EMA ARPA First Fund The Ohio EMA ARPA First fund accounts for and reports funding received from a federal grant restricted for the purpose of alleviating financial pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The District had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Bond Note Retirement Fund The general bond note retirement fund accounts for an reports monies received from property taxes to be used to make principal and interest payments for the fire building.

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 Board 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 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 level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered 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 District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The District did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The District'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.

Capital Assets

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

SBITAs

The District has entered into noncancelable Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software including contracts related to financial systems. Subscription disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

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 District 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.

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 District 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:

Fund Type	2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 749,647	\$ 802,266	\$ 52,619
Special Revenue	50,400	50,834	434
Debt Service	705,700	730,692	24,992
Total	\$ 1,505,747	\$ 1,583,792	\$ 78,045

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation	Budgetary	Variance
	Authority	Expenditures	
General	\$ 1,117,076	\$ 867,393	\$ 249,683
Special Revenue	50,400	28,151	22,249
Debt Service	575,000	444,232	130,768
Total	<u>\$ 1,742,476</u>	<u>\$ 1,339,776</u>	<u>\$ 402,700</u>

Note 4 – Deposits

The District maintains a deposits pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2023
Demand deposits	<u>\$ 1,495,422</u>

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 – Taxes

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 District.

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

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 6 – Risk Management

The District 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 (local entity'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
Cash and investments	\$33,494,457
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,885,549

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

The District's Fire Chief belongs to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F 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. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The District contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 19.5 percent of full-time fire fighters' wages. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

District paramedics 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 healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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

Social Security

The District's part-time firefighters contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

Both OP&F and OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2023.

Beginning January 1, 2019, OP&F changed its retiree health care model to a stipend-based health care model. A stipend funded by OP&F was placed in individual Health Reimbursement Accounts that retirees use to be reimbursed for health care expenses.

Note 9 – Debt

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

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Mortgage Obligation	\$ 2,392,000	2.49%

The District issues general obligation bonds in fiscal year 2018 to finance the purchase of a fire building. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

The mortgage revenue bond covenant requires the District to establish and fund a debt service reserve fund, included as a debt service fund. The balance in the fund at December 31, 2023 is \$507,284

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	Mortgage Obligation
2024	\$ 434,561
2025	434,223
2026	434,662
2027	433,851
2028	433,816
2029-2033	433,533
Total	<u>\$ 2,604,646</u>

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

The District may be a defendant in several lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of these suits, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the District's financial condition.

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District 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.

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 11 – Related Organizations

On July 16, 2018, the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees passed Resolution 13-2018 authorizing the addition of the Village of Gloria Glens Park to the Lafayette Township Fire District, approving the expansion of the territorial limits of the District to encompass all territory within territorial limits of Gloria Glens Park, Resolution 17-2019 amended Resolution 13-2018 by identifying the Lafayette Township Fire & Rescue District for the purpose of separate budgeting. The Township trustee also serve on the Board of Trustees for the District, but the Township is not financially responsible for the District. The District began January 1, 2020 keeping a separate budget and a separate UAN computer system.

Note 12 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. 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 facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	Special Revenue
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 213
Total	<u>\$ 213</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects, and permanent funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Combined Total
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 576,932	\$ -	\$ 577,385	\$ 1,154,317
Charges for Services	122,724	-	-	122,724
Intergovernmental	74,017	-	10,343	84,360
Miscellaneous	123,850	-	-	123,850
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<i>897,523</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>587,728</i>	<i>1,485,251</i>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current Disbursements:				
General Government	12,803	-	7,890	20,693
Public Safety	890,708	19	-	890,727
Capital Outlay	2,849	-	-	2,849
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	357,000	357,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	77,563	77,563
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<i>906,360</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>442,453</i>	<i>1,348,832</i>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<i>(8,837)</i>	<i>(19)</i>	<i>145,275</i>	<i>136,419</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balance, January 1 (Restated - See Note 14)</i>	<i>927,278</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>187,477</i>	<i>1,114,774</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balance, December 31</i>	<i>\$ 918,441</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 332,752</i>	<i>\$ 1,251,193</i>

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

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District, Medina County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The District participates in a public entity risk pool, the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio Local Governments. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for this entity.

Related Organization

The District is associated with the Village of Gloria Glens Park, a related organization. Note 11 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

Fund Accounting

The District 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 District 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 District 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 District had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

MARC'S Grant Fund The MARC's grant fund accounts for and reports monies received by grants to be spent on communication radios.

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The District had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Bond Note Retirement Fund The general bond note retirement fund accounts for an reports monies received from property taxes to be used to make principal and interest payments for the fire building.

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 Board 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 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 level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered 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 District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The District did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The District'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.

Capital Assets

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

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

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 District 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.

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 District 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, 2022 follows:

Fund Type	2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	Receipts	Receipts	
General	\$ 818,199	\$ 897,523	\$ 79,324
Debt Service	561,800	587,728	25,928
Total	\$ 1,379,999	\$ 1,485,251	\$ 105,252

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation	Budgetary	
	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 1,326,855	\$ 910,550	\$ 416,305
Special Revenue	19	19	-
Debt Service	749,277	442,453	306,824
Total	<u>\$ 2,076,151</u>	<u>\$ 1,353,022</u>	<u>\$ 723,129</u>

Note 4 – Deposits

The District maintains a deposits pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2022
Demand deposits	<u>\$ 1,251,193</u>

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 – Taxes

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 District.

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

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 6 – Risk Management

The District 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 (local entity'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:

	2022
Cash and investments	\$32,288,098
Actuarial liabilities	\$9,146,434

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some District 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 healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries, and the District contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

Social Security

Some District employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2022, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Mortgage Obligation	\$ 2,758,000	2.49%

The District issues general obligation bonds in fiscal year 2018 to finance the purchase of a fire building. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

The mortgage revenue bond covenant requires the District to establish and fund a debt service reserve fund, included as a debt service fund. The balance in the fund at December 31, 2022 is \$264,809.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	Mortgage Obligation
2023	\$ 434,674
2024	434,561
2025	434,223
2026	434,662
2027	433,851
2028-2032	867,349
Total	<u>\$ 3,039,320</u>

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

The District may be a defendant in several lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of these suits, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the District's financial condition.

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District 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 – Related Organizations

On July 16, 2018, the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees passed Resolution 13-2018 authorizing the addition of the Village of Gloria Glens Park to the Lafayette Township Fire District, approving the expansion of the territorial limits of the District to encompass all territory within territorial limits of Gloria Glens Park, Resolution 17-2019 amended Resolution 13-2018 by identifying the Lafayette Township Fire & Rescue District for the purpose of separate budgeting. The Township trustee also serve on the Board of Trustees for the District, but the Township is not financially responsible for the District. The District began January 1, 2020 keeping a separate budget and a separate UAN computer system.

Note 12 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. 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 facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

	Fund Balances	General
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 4,190	<u>4,190</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,190</u>	

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects, and permanent funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Note 13 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Medina County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 14 – Restatement of Fund Balances

Beginning fund balance at January 1, 2022 was restated for the District's General Fund due to voided receipts.

	<u>General Fund</u>
Ending Fund Balance, December 31, 2021	\$ 928,230
Restatement Amount	<u>(952)</u>
Beginning Fund Balance, January 1, 2022, Restated	<u>\$ 927,278</u>

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

Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District
Medina County
6776 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256

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, 2023 and 2022 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District, Medina County, (the District) and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 2024, wherein we noted the District 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 District'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 District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District'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 a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2023-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District
Medina 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 District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2023-002.

District's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings. The District'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 District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

December 2, 2024

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

The District should have procedures and controls in place to prevent and detect errors in financial reporting.

Receipts and disbursements were not always posted or classified correctly. The following errors were noted:

- Rollback receipts were not properly allocated to the correct funds per the County Auditor Settlement Sheets in 2023 and 2022;
- Property tax receipts were not properly allocated to the correct funds per the County Auditor Settlement Sheets in 2022;
- County Auditor tax collection deductions were misclassified as Public Safety instead of General Government in the General Bond Note Retirement Fund in 2023;
- Grant receipts were incorrectly classified as Miscellaneous in the General Fund in 2023; and
- A receipt for the sale of a truck was incorrectly classified as Miscellaneous instead of Sale of Capital Assets in 2023.

Not posting receipts and disbursements accurately resulted in the financial statements requiring several adjustments and reclassifications. The District has made the adjustments to their accounting system. The financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend that management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all sources of revenues and expenses are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

Official's Response – Corrected.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-002

Noncompliance

Prior Certification of Disbursements

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required meeting 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. Only the subdivision's fiscal officer need sign the certificate. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2023-002 (CONTINUED)

Prior Certification of Disbursements (Continued)

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 main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. "Then and Now" certificate - If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the taxing authority can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The taxing authority 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 taxing authority.
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 entity 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. Only one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any one line-item appropriation.

The District did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 56% and 25% of the expenditures tested for 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval.

To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the District's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the District. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

Official's Response – Corrected.

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
MEDINA COUNTY**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2021-001	Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2023-001

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

MEDINA 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 3/18/2025

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