

**TRI-COUNTY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT**

***MADISON COUNTY, OHIO***

**AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**







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Board of Trustees  
Tri-County Joint Fire District  
PO Box 325  
Mt. Sterling, OH 43143

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of the Tri-County Joint Fire District, Madison County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

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 Tri-County Joint Fire District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany L Ridenbaugh".

Tiffany L Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM  
Chief Deputy Auditor

December 09, 2025

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TRI-COUNTY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT  
MADISON COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures .....	1

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

Tri-County Joint Fire District  
Madison County  
PO Box 325  
Mt. Sterling, OH 43143

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Tri-County Joint Fire District, Madison County, Ohio's (the District) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the District. The District is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the District.

The Board of Trustees and the management of the District have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the District's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

**Cash**

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Cash Journal to the December 31, 2022 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2024 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the Cash Journal to the December 31, 2023 balances in the Cash Journal. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2024 and 2023 Bank Reconciliation Balances as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Cash Journal and the financial statements filed by the District in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.

4. We confirmed the December 31, 2024 bank account balances with the Ohio Pooled Collateral System. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register, and determined the debits were dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
6. We traced interbank account transfers occurring in December of 2024 and 2023 to the accounting records and bank statements to determine if they were properly recorded. We found no exceptions.

#### **Property Taxes, Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts**

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL), and the Madison County Auditor's Distribution Transaction Lists for 2024 and a total of five from 2023.
  - a. We compared the amount from the above-named reports to the amount recorded in the Receipt Journal. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Journal to determine these receipts were allocated to the proper funds as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.05 and 5705.10. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the Receipt Journal to determine whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the Receipt Journal to determine whether it included two real estate tax receipts for 2024 and 2023. The Receipt Journal included the proper number of tax receipts for each year. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the total amounts received under fire contracts during 2024 and 2023 to the contract documents. We found no exceptions.
  - a. We inspected the Receipt Journal to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the Receipt Journal to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

#### **Other Receipts**

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2024 and 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the Receipt Journal to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Receipt Journal to determine the receipt was posted to the proper fund and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Tri-County Joint Fire District  
Madison County  
Independent Accountant's Report on  
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures  
Page 3

**Debt**

1. The prior audit report disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2022.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the Receipt Journal and Appropriation Ledger for evidence of debt issued during 2024 or 2023 or debt payment activity during 2024 or 2023. There were no new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2024 or 2023.

**Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2024 and one payroll check for five employees from 2023 from the Wage Withholdings Detail Report and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Wage Withholdings Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the fund and account code to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the employees' personnel files. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 3 new employees and Board of Trustees from 2024 and 3 new employees and Board of Trustees from 2023 and:
  - a. We inspected the employees' personnel files and minute records for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization
  - b. We agreed the items in a above to the Payroll Details Report.We found no exceptions.
3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2024, to confirm remittances were timely paid, and if the amounts paid agreed to the amounts withheld, plus the employer's share where applicable, during the final withholding period of 2024. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2025	December 20, 2024	\$5,220.39	\$5,220.39
State income taxes	January 15, 2025	December 20, 2024	\$605.03	\$605.03
Local income tax	January 15, 2025	December 20, 2024	\$564.83	\$564.83
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2025	January 3, 2025	\$288.00	\$288.00
OP&F retirement	January 31, 2025	January 3, 2025	\$8,956.56	\$8,956.56

We noted no exceptions.

### **Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. From the Appropriation ledger, we re-footed checks recorded as General Fund disbursements for security of persons and property for 2024. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 10 disbursements from the Cash Journal for the year ended December 31, 2024, and 10 from the year ended December 31, 2023 and determined whether:
  - a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
  - b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check or electronic funds transfer listing agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the Cash Journal and the amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
  - c. The fiscal officer certified disbursements requiring certification or issued a Then and Now Certificate, as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D). We found no exceptions.

### **Compliance – Budgetary**

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total approved appropriations (Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.38 and 5705.40) plus any carryover appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 for the General Fund. We observed no funds for which expenditures exceeded appropriations.
2. We inspected the Cash Summary by Fund Report for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10 (I) provides that money paid into a fund must be used for the purposes for which such fund is established. As a result, a negative fund cash balance indicates that money from one fund was used to cover the expenses of another. There were no funds having negative cash fund balances.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance**

1. We obtained and inspected the District's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any completed, denied, or redacted public records requests during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the District had a records retention schedule and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inspected the District's policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

6. We observed that the District's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all locations of the District as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any elected officials subject to the Public Records Training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the District notified the public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
  - a. Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
  - b. Filed – placed with similar documents in an organized manner
  - c. Maintained - retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
  - d. Open to public inspection – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
  - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
  - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G).
  - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

#### **Other Compliance**

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires districts to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. The Auditor of State established policies, regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the District filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and the Auditor of State established policy, within the allotted period for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 in the Hinkle system. There were no exceptions.

Tri-County Joint Fire District  
Madison County  
Independent Accountant's Report on  
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures  
Page 6

We were engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the District's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

*Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.*

**Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.**

September 29, 2025

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



TRI-COUNTY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

MADISON 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 12/23/2025

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)