



**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

INITIAL AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005-2004



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

Delaware Valley Joint Fire District
Tuscarawas County
P.O. Box 6
Port Washington, Ohio 43837

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Montgomery".

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 30, 2006

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Delaware Valley Joint Fire District
Tuscarawas County
P.O. Box 6
Port Washington, Ohio 43837

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Delaware Valley Joint Fire District, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, (the Fire District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fire District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Fire District has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Fire District to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2005 and 2004, the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2005 and 2004. While the Fire District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Fire District has elected not to reformat its statements. Since this District does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Fire District as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Delaware Valley Joint Fire District, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Fire District to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. The Fire District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 30, 2006, on our consideration of the Fire District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 30, 2006

**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

	General Fund	
	2005	2004
Cash Receipts:		
Local Taxes	\$44,799	\$43,971
Intergovernmental	7,604	15,938
Miscellaneous	4,242	2,844
Total Cash Receipts	56,645	62,753
Cash Disbursements:		
Current:		
Security of Persons and Property	2,638	2,924
General Government	28,310	19,828
Debt Service:		
Redemption of Principal	17,140	9,248
Interest	7,180	6,129
Capital Outlay	73,450	18,130
Total Cash Disbursements	128,718	56,259
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(72,073)	6,494
Other Financing Receipts:		
Loan Proceeds	70,000	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	(2,073)	6,494
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	35,010	28,516
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$32,937	\$35,010

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

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**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Delaware Valley Joint Fire District, Tuscarawas County, (the Fire District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the Fire District. Each political subdivision within the Fire District appoints two members. The fifth member is appointed by one individual subdivision within the Fire District on a two year rotational basis. Those subdivisions are Salem Township and the Village of Port Washington. The principal purpose of the Fire District is to pool the mutual resources and abilities of the member subdivisions and thereby provide adequate and responsible fire emergency and fire rescue to all the people within the Fire District.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting the Auditor of State prescribes or permits, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. This basis 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 adequately disclose material matters the Auditor of State prescribes.

C. Cash

The Fire District maintains all cash in an interest-bearing checking account.

D. Fund Accounting

The Fire District uses fund accounting to segregate cash that is restricted as to use. The Fire District classifies its fund as the General Fund which accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Fire District to budget each fund annually.

1. Appropriations

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

**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

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 Fire District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Fire District did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 2005 and 2004 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Fire District maintains a cash pool used by its General Fund. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash at December 31 follows:

	2005	2004
Demand deposits	\$32,937	\$10,710
Certificates of deposit		24,300
Total deposits	\$32,937	\$35,010

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 follows:

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$84,689	\$126,645	\$41,956

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$44,800	\$128,718	(\$83,918)

**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$72,948	\$62,753	(\$10,195)

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$38,500	\$56,259	(\$17,759)

Contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B), budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. In addition, contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D), the Fire District had expenditures which were not certified by the Clerk as to the availability of funds, prior to incurring the obligation.

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board of Trustees adopts rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The State then pays the Fire District amounts equaling the homestead and rollback deductions. 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 Fire District.

Tangible personal property tax owners assess that property. The property owners must file a tangible property list 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 Fire District.

5. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2005 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Bank Loan - Water Truck	\$99,760	4.87%
Bank Loan - Rescue Truck	62,851	5.00%
Total	\$162,611	

The Fire District entered into a bank loan to purchase a new water truck. The loan was issued on March 15, 2003 for \$119,000, maturing through April 1, 2013.

The Fire District entered into a bank loan to purchase a new rescue truck. The loan was issued on March 9, 2005 for \$70,000, maturing through October 1, 2014.

**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004
(Continued)**

5. DEBT (Continued)

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

Year ending December 31:	Water Truck	Rescue Truck
2006	\$15,377	\$8,942
2007	15,377	8,942
2008	15,377	8,942
2009	15,377	8,942
2010	15,377	7,222
2011-2014	46,131	38,084
Total	\$123,016	\$81,074

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Fire District's Clerk and Fire Chief belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS member employees contributed 8.5 percent of their gross salaries. The Fire District contributed an amount equal to 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Fire District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2005.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Fire District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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



Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

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

Delaware Valley Joint Fire District
Tuscarawas County
P.O. Box 6
Port Washington, Ohio 43837

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Delaware Valley Joint Fire District, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, (the Fire District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2006, wherein we noted the Fire District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Fire District's internal control over financial reporting to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider material weaknesses. In a separate letter to the Fire District's management dated September 30, 2006, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Fire District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2005-001 and 2005-002. In a separate letter to the Fire District's management dated September 30, 2006, we reported other matters related to noncompliance we deemed immaterial.

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Delaware Valley Joint Fire District
Tuscarawas County
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management and the Board of Trustees. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

September 30, 2006

**DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2005-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(B) requires that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.

At December 31, 2005, expenditures exceeded appropriations within the following:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$44,800	\$128,718	(\$83,918)

At December 31, 2004, expenditures exceeded appropriations within the following:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
General	\$38,500	\$56,259	(\$17,759)

In addition, the Fire District approves its appropriations at the object level; however, the Fire District does not maintain an Appropriations Ledger, therefore, testing throughout the year and at the legal level of control could not be performed. The Clerk should frequently compare actual expenditures to appropriations at the object level to avoid overspending. In addition, the Clerk should maintain an Appropriations Ledger to reflect budget versus actual activity of the Fire District.

FINDING NUMBER 2005-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) states in part, that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the Clerk of the subdivision that the amount required to meet the same has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be null and void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that the Clerk'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 Clerk can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the Clerk 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 Fire District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Fire District has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

FINDING NUMBER 2005-002 (Continued)

Noncompliance Citation (Continued)

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the Clerk 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 Fire District.

2. **Blanket Certificate** – Clerks 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 Fire District may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the Clerk for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

During 2005 and 2004, 24 of 28 (86%) of the expenses tested were not certified by the Clerk prior to incurring the commitment and none of the exceptions noted above were utilized. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

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 Fire District’s funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Clerk certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Fire District. When prior certification is not possible, “then and now” certification should be used.

We recommend the Fire District certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Clerk should sign the certification at the time the Fire District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Clerk should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

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



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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DELAWARE VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

TUSCARAWAS 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
NOVEMBER 9, 2006**