

Travis County Emergency  
Services District No. 4  
Financial Statements  
September 30, 2023

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4  
For the Year Ending September 30, 2023

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors  
Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4

**Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4 as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4, as of September 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4, 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.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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 Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4'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 generally accepted 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 generally accepted 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 Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4'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.

#### **Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 3-9 and 23 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.



Medack & Oltmann, LLP  
Giddings, Texas  
January 30, 2024

Travis County Emergency  
Service District 4.



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## *Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A)*

For the Year Ending September 30, 2023

The purpose of the Management's Discussion and Analysis (the "MD&A") is to give the readers an objective and easily, readable analysis of the financial activities of Travis County Emergency Services District #4 (the "District") for the year ending September 30, 2023. The analysis is based on currently known facts, decisions, or economic conditions. It presents short and long-term analysis of the District's activities compares current year results with those of the prior year and discusses the positive and negative aspects of that comparison. Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34 establishes the content of the minimum requirements for the MD&A. Please read the MD&A in conjunction with the District's financial statements, which follow this section.

### **Financial Highlights**

- Total Net Position equaled \$20,288,632
  - Net Investment in Capital Assets \$2,184,938
  - Unrestricted Net Position \$18,103,694,
- Total General Fund Expenditures were \$5,360,925 while Revenue was \$9,635,911 resulting in an excess of Revenue over Expenditures of \$4,274,986.

### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the District's basic financial statements. The District's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: **1) Government-wide financial statements; 2) Fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.**

### **Government-Wide Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements report information about the District as a whole, using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes all the government's assets and liabilities, reported using the full accrual basis of accounting. The statement of activities accounts for all of the current year's revenues and expenses, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

### **Fund Financial Statements**

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the District's General Fund and Debt Service Fund.

### **Using this Annual Report**

As mentioned previously, this annual report consists of a series of financial statements. GASB Statement No. 34 provides that for governments engaged in a single government program, the fund financial statements and the government-wide statements may be combined. The District presents the governmental funds in the first column. The next column is an adjustment column which reconciles the amounts reported in the governmental funds to indicate how each line item would change when reported on the full-accrual basis of accounting. The last column of these combination statements shows the amounts that normally would appear in the government-wide statements. For governmental activities, this last column tells us how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending.

### **Reporting the District as a Whole**

One of the questions that can be asked about the District's finances is, "Is the District better off or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The 1) Statement of Net Position and 2) Statement of Activities present information about the District as a whole and its activities in a way that helps to answer this question. These statements (as reported in the last column of each of the statements) include all of the District's assets and liabilities, utilizing the accrual basis of accounting.

The two Combined Fund and Government-wide statements report the District's net position and how they have changed. Net position, the difference between the District's assets and liabilities, is one way to measure the financial health of the District. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position are an indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. To assess the overall health of the District, one needs to consider other non-financial factors such as changes in the District's property tax base, sales tax base and condition of facilities and equipment.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the District's net position changed during the most recent twelve-month period. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

Both of these reports identify functions of the District that are principally supported by grants and government revenues.

The principal government activities of Travis County ESD 4 are:

- ❖ Fire Suppression and Rescue activities
- ❖ Emergency Medical Services
- ❖ Code Enforcement and Public Education

The District currently has no business-type activities.

### **Reporting the District's Governmental Funds**

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District (ESD #4), like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

### **Governmental Funds**

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spend-able resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare that information presented for governmental

**Travis County ESD 4  
Management's Discussion and Analysis**

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funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. All of the District's basic services are reported in governmental funds which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called Modified Accrual Accounting which measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District's programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is described in the adjustment's column of the financial statements and in Note 8 of the financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes can be found after the financial statements within this report.

**The District as a Whole**

Governmental activities increased the District's net position by \$4,765,722. Our analysis below focuses on the net position (Table 1) and the changes in net position (Table 2) of the District's governmental activities:

**Table 1  
Governmental Activities  
Net Position**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>9/30/2023</b>	<b>9/30/2022</b>
Current Assets	\$ 18,167,308	\$ 13,871,876
Other Assets	250	250
Capital Assets	<u>2,184,938</u>	<u>1,682,390</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 20,352,496</b>	<b>\$ 15,554,516</b>
 <b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	 \$ -	 \$ -
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	63,864	31,606
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 63,864</b>	<b>\$ 31,606</b>
 <b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	 \$ -	 \$ -
 <b>Net Position</b>		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	2,184,938	1,682,390
Restricted	-	-
Unrestricted	<u>18,103,694</u>	<u>13,840,520</u>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 20,288,632</b>	<b>\$ 15,522,910</b>

**Overall, this represents a year-to-year increase of 30.7% in Net Position.**

**Table 2**  
**Changes in Net Position**

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>9/30/2023</b>	<b>9/30/2022</b>
Insurance	9,653	9,538
Stations	55	1,527
District Office	3,595	1,626
Administrative	117,089	99,359
Contract-City of Austin	4,666,544	4,571,092
Miscellaneous	4,316	4,825
Depreciation Expense	57,125	53,916
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,858,377</b>	<b>\$ 4,741,883</b>
<b>General Revenues</b>		
Property Taxes	2,443,098	2,386,658
Sales Taxes	6,434,159	5,863,689
Interest	742,139	97,552
Miscellaneous Income	4,703	1,200
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 9,624,099</b>	<b>\$ 8,349,099</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 4,765,722</b>	<b>\$ 3,607,216</b>
<b>Net Position Beginning of year</b>	<b>15,522,910</b>	<b>11,915,694</b>
<b>Net Position End of year</b>	<b>20,288,632</b>	<b>15,522,910</b>

**Budgetary Highlights**

The District's annual budget process includes a very thorough estimate of projected annual revenues (income) and expenditures (expenses). The Board of Commissioners of the District conduct meetings in the month of August, to prepare the annual budget. The following items are reviewed and published only after very careful consideration of the estimated projections:

- ❖ Estimates of Ad Valorem tax (property taxes) income are provided by the Travis County Tax Appraiser's office. That estimate, combined with an estimate of historical collection rates for the District is used with the proposed tax rate to estimate the amount of revenue that can be realistically collected and used for the District's operations.
- ❖ Historical data provided by the State of Texas Comptroller's office is used to derive estimated sales tax revenue.
- ❖ The liquidation (sale) of assets such as remaining fire stations and land could be part of the annual income. Historically, the District has not relied on this item as a reliable source of income for budgetary planning.

In each budget process, the District's proposed expenses and revenues are projected by line item. Critical to this estimate is the growth or loss in assessed valuation of the District's service area, and the resulting growth or loss of revenue from Ad Valorem property and Sales Tax. The estimates of the growth or loss of revenue producing property in the District's service area has historically been very accurate due to the hard work and diligence of the District's Board of Commissioners.

**Travis County ESD 4  
Management's Discussion and Analysis**

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The service agreement with the City of Austin (COA) represents approximately 96.4% of overall expenditures and constitute the single greatest management challenge to the District considering the legislative cap on the tax rate an Emergency Services District can levy (10 cents on the \$100 dollar valuation).

Throughout the year the District's Board of Commissioners vote on and approve minor changes to the planned budget through budget amendments. Historically, the District's board does not make numerous line-item changes to the planned budget, instead they monitor the expenditures very closely and make budgetary amendment decisions based on overall impact to the budget plan and amend only as necessary. Overall, this approach results in a more stable annual budget to actual expenditures picture. Budget to actual expenditures, both income and expense are reviewed monthly in planned public meetings.

The District's actual expenditures of \$5,360,925 were less than the final budget amount of \$6,049,354 by \$688,429 and actual revenues of \$9,635,911 exceeded final budget of \$6,438,749 by \$3,197,162.

**Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

**Capital Assets:**

At the end of the fiscal year FY 9/30/2023, capital assets are as follows:

	<u>9/30/2023</u>	<u>9/30/2022</u>
<b>Capital Assets - Please see Note 5</b>		
Governmental Activities:		
Capital assets not being depreciated:		
Land	\$ 134,064	\$ 134,064
Construction-in-Progress	112,000	475,014
Total capital assets not being depreciated:	<u>246,064</u>	<u>609,078</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:		
Equipment	75,705	75,705
Buildings and Structures	2,598,748	1,676,061
Total Capital Assets being depreciated:	<u>2,674,453</u>	<u>1,751,766</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:		
Equipment	40,425	34,031
Buildings and Structures	695,154	644,423
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>735,579</u>	<u>678,454</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	<u>1,938,874</u>	<u>1,073,312</u>
Government activities capital assets, net	<u>2,184,938</u>	<u>1,682,390</u>

**Depreciation was charged to the governmental activities of \$57,125.**

**Organization**

During fiscal year 2022, Travis County ESD 4 (TCESD 4) maintained a lean, streamlined, and focused organization. The District has no employees but utilizes professional contractors to provide crucial District functions such as 1) Financial Management, 2) District Administration & COA contract management, 3) Communications Management, and 4) Legal Representation. The District receives monthly reports from each area of service, reflective of the duties and activities for the month, accompanying their invoices. Other traditional "employee" benefits are not included in any of the contractor relationships. We have eliminated many of the traditional administrative office costs: We use a meeting room at a local motel for our meetings.

## Travis County ESD 4 Management's Discussion and Analysis

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This venue is a cost-effective way to provide an easy to attend experience for member of the public and our board members. We utilize a small office at one of our fire stations for the remaining administrative needs.

### Financial

We spend several weeks in April and September in discussions with the City of Austin (COA) regarding operational results, anticipated fiscal changes and resulting budget impacts for the upcoming year. The budget for the upcoming year's contract is finalized at the September meetings.

The largest cost driver in the COA contract is personnel costs for Austin firefighters. Increases in these labor costs have been relatively modest under the current four-year collective-bargaining agreement between the Austin firefighter's union and the COA. However, we are coming to the end of this agreement and the evolution of these labor costs beyond the end of this current agreement are uncertain. We are monitoring this cost driver carefully as it has a very large effect on our contract with the COA.

Our second-largest expenditure category is the maintenance and upgrade needs of our fire stations. In FY 2022 we undertook a significant remodel of the kitchen and dining areas at fire station 48. We also finalized the planning and permitting of a new parking lot at fire station 47. We plan to complete the construction of this lot in FY 2023. Both projects will better serve the larger staffs at these stations.

Our ability to continue to afford the COA contract model of service provision is directly dependent on tax collections:

- **Property Tax:** Current legislation limits the increase in the amount of property tax revenue we can collect. However, this is somewhat offset by the increase in the number of developed taxable parcels in our service area. In FY 2021 we reduced the tax from \$.10/\$100 (the maximum amount) to \$.08 for FY2021. For FY 2023 we reduced the tax rate to \$.06. Equally significant are the two new homestead tax exemptions we were able offer in FY 2023. We extended a full 20 percent homestead exemption and a \$60,000 Over Age 65 exemption. These are the first property tax reductions we have made in many years
- **Sales Tax:** More than half of our revenue is sales tax. This revenue stream continues to show strong growth and reliability.
- **Property Annexation by the COA:** Recent state legislation has slowed annexations somewhat, but commercial properties, which are the basis of our sales tax revenue, remain vulnerable to annexation. This could have a significant negative impact on our sales tax revenue. We have an active project to track our commercial property tax collections to ensure that we are receiving the proper sales taxes.
- **Reserve Funds:** The District continues to seek out ways to increase and stabilize income. Accordingly, we are building and maintaining a reserve fund to be able to weather sales tax collection losses so that we will be able to continue the COA fire service contract through periods of sales tax disruption. Further, we continue to maintain accounts at TexPool Government Investment Pools to better manage our assets.

**Conclusion**

For the fifth year, the District is pleased with the decision of contract with the COA for the provision of services rather than operate our own fire department. Our level of service has been significantly improved. This improvement has resulted in a large improvement in fire insurance ratings, particularly for residential properties. The TCESD 4 Board of Commissioners remain resolute in monitoring available revenues and expenditures and will continue to seek the most effective and efficient use of the taxpayers' dollars.

**Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

**Travis County Emergency Services District # 4  
14312 Hunters Bend Dr  
Austin, TX 78723**

**Phone: ESD #4 District Office 512-836-7566  
E-mail: ESD #4 District Office [info@esd4.org](mailto:info@esd4.org)**

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET AND  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 8)	Statement of Net Position
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	\$ 66,536	\$ -	\$ 66,536
Investments	16,794,073	-	16,794,073
Property Taxes Receivable	87,574	-	87,574
Due from Other Governments	1,219,125	-	1,219,125
Security Deposits	250	-	250
Capital Assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	-	2,184,938	2,184,938
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 18,167,558</u>	<u>\$ 2,184,938</u>	<u>\$ 20,352,496</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	<u>\$ 63,864</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 63,864</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>63,864</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,864</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES-</b>			
Deferred revenue - property taxes	<u>\$ 87,574</u>	<u>\$ (87,574)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</b>			
Fund balances:			
Nonspendable	-	-	-
Restricted	-	-	-
Unassigned	18,016,120	(18,016,120)	-
Total fund balances	<u>18,016,120</u>	<u>(18,016,120)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	<u>\$ 18,167,558</u>		
Net position:			
Net investment in capital assets		2,184,938	2,184,938
Restricted		-	-
Unrestricted		18,103,694	18,103,694
Total net position		<u>\$ 20,288,632</u>	<u>\$ 20,288,632</u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements



TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements for the District have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting. The GASB periodically updates its codification of the existing Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards which, along with subsequent GASB pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations), constitutes GAAP for governmental units. The most significant of these accounting policies are described below.

REPORTING ENTITY

The Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4 (the District) was created by Article III, Section 48-d of the Constitution of Texas to protect life and property from fire and to conserve natural and human resources.

In evaluating how to define the government, for financial reporting purposes, management has considered all potential component units. The decision to include a potential component unit in the reporting entity was made by applying the criteria set forth in GAAP. The basic - but not the only - criterion for including a potential component unit with the reporting entity is the governing body's ability to exercise oversight responsibility. The most significant manifestation of this ability is financial interdependency. Other manifestations of the ability to exercise oversight responsibility include, but are not limited to, the selection of governing authority, the designation of management, the ability to significantly influence operations, and accountability for fiscal matters. A second criterion used in evaluating potential component units is the scope of public service. Application of this criterion involves considering whether the activity benefits the government and/or its citizens, or whether the activity is conducted within the geographic boundaries of the government and is generally available to its citizens. A third criterion used to evaluate potential component units for inclusion or exclusion from the reporting entity is the existence of special financing relationships, regardless of whether the government is able to exercise oversight responsibilities. Based upon the application of these criteria, no potential component units appear to exist.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

*Basic Financial Statements*

GASB sets forth minimum criteria for the determination of major funds based on a percentage of the assets, liabilities, revenues or expenditures/expenses or either fund category or governmental and enterprise combined. Due to the fund structure of the District, all funds have been classified as major funds. As a part of this Statement, there is a reporting requirement regarding the local government's infrastructure (road, bridges, etc.) The District does not own any infrastructure assets and therefore is unaffected by this requirement.

The basic financial statements include both government-wide (based on the District as a whole) and fund financial statements. The reporting model focus is on either the District as a whole or major individual funds (within the fund financial statements). In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, both the governmental and business-type activities columns are presented on a consolidated basis by column, and are reflected on a full accrual, economic resources basis, which incorporates long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The District does not have any business-type or fiduciary activities.

The government-wide Statement of Activities reflects both the gross and net cost per functional category which are otherwise being supported by general government revenues. The Statement of Activities reduces

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

gross expenses (including depreciation) by related program revenues, operating and capital grants. The program revenues must be directly associated with the function. However, the District does not have any program revenues for this fiscal period.

The net cost by function is normally covered by general revenues (intergovernmental revenues, interest income, etc). Historically, the previous model did not summarize or present net cost by function or activity. The District does not currently employ indirect cost allocation systems.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the District as an entity and the change in aggregate financial position resulting from the activities of the fiscal period. The governmental fund statements are presented on a current financial resource and modified accrual basis of accounting. This presentation is deemed appropriate to (a) demonstrate legal compliance, (b) demonstrate the source and use of liquid resources, and (c) demonstrate how the District's actual experience conforms to the budget or fiscal plan.

GASB provides that for governments engaged in a single governmental program, the fund financial statements and the government-wide statements may be combined. The District presents the general fund in the first column. The next column is an adjustments column. It reconciles the amounts reported in the governmental funds to show how each would change when reported on the full-accrual basis of accounting. The last column of these combination statements shows the amounts that normally would appear in the government-wide statements.

#### FUND ACCOUNTING

Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be separate accounting entities. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditure/expenses. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the District or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and
- b. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental funds combined.

The District uses only one fund type – the Governmental Fund. The focus of Governmental Fund measurement (in the Fund Financial Statements) is based upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

#### BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The government-wide financial statements are presented on an accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual, i.e., when they become both measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. The District considers all revenues as available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.

In applying the "susceptible to accrual" concept to intergovernmental revenues pursuant to GASB Statement #33, the provider should recognize liabilities and expenses and the recipient should recognize receivables and revenues when the applicable eligibility requirements including time requirements, are met. Resources transmitted before the eligibility requirements are met, under most circumstances, should be reported as advances by the provider and deferred revenue by the recipient.

BUDGETS

The District follows these procedures in establishing the budget reflected in the financial statements:

1. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the District prepares a budget. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing those expenditures and is prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting utilized by that fund.
2. Public meetings are conducted at which all interested persons' comments concerning the budget are heard. After such meetings, the Board of Commissioners formally adopts the budget through passage of an ordinance.
3. The District amends the budget throughout the year approving such additional expenses. The amended budget is used in presenting the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual.
4. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

The District adopted GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*, which provides guidance for reporting the financial statement elements of deferred outflows of resources, which represent the consumption of the District's net position that is applicable to a future reporting period, and deferred inflows of resources, which represent the District' acquisition of net position applicable to a future reporting period.

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The District adopted GASB Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*, which establishes accounting and financial reporting standards that reclassify, as deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources, certain items that were previously reported as assets and liabilities and recognizes, as outflows of resources or inflows of resources, certain items that were previously reported as assets and liabilities.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The District's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand and demand deposits.

AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES

Delinquent taxes are prorated based on rates adopted for the year of the levy. Allowances for uncollectibles within the General Fund are based upon historical experience in collecting property taxes. Uncollectible personal property taxes are periodically reviewed and written off, but the District is prohibited from writing off real property taxes without specific statutory authority from the Texas Legislature. There were no allowance for uncollectible property taxes as of September 30, 2023.

CAPITAL ASSETS

The accounting treatment over property, plant, and equipment (capital assets) depends on whether the assets are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

*Government-wide Statements*

In the government-wide financial statements, fixed assets are accounted for as capital assets. Property, plant, and equipment purchased or acquired is carried at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are recorded at the fair market value as of the date received. Additions, improvements, and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. The capitalization policy, i.e., the dollar value above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital accounts, is \$5,000.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an allocated expense in the Statement of Activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the Statement of Net Position. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives with no salvage value. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Buildings and Structures	40 years
Vehicles	7-20 years
Other Equipment	10-20 years

The Department does not own any infrastructure assets, or any leases as required to be reported under GASB 87.

*Fund Financial Statements*

In the fund financial statements, capital assets are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition.

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

EQUITY CLASSIFICATIONS

*Government-wide Statements*

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets – Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position – Consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulation of other government; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net position – All other net position that do not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets.”

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed

*Fund Statements*

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as non-spendable or spendable with spendable being further classified into restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned.

COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The District no longer has employees.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District purchases its insurance from regular commercial companies. As of September 30, 2023, no claims or losses have been incurred that were not covered by insurance. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the District. Claims have not exceeded this insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The District complies with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, which defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction. Fair value accounting requires characterization of the inputs used to measure fair value into a three-level fair value hierarchy as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are based on unadjusted quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market the entity has the ability to access
- Level 2 inputs are observable inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent from the entity
- Level 3 are observable inputs that reflect the entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available.

There are three general valuation techniques that may be used to measure fair value:

- Market approach: uses prices generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets or liabilities
- Cost approach: uses the amount that currently would be required to replace the service capacity of an asset (replacement cost)
- Income approach: uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts to present amounts based on current market expectations

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

RECENTLY ADOPTED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In May 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022. The Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset – an intangible asset – and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. The implementation of GASB 96 did not have a material impact on the District's financial statements, the adoption did not result in a restatement of previously reported fund balance for the year ended September 30, 2023.

RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In June 2022, the GASB issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. Management is evaluating the effects that the full implementation of GASB Statement No. 101 will have on its financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2025.

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS

Deposits for the District are being held by Wells Fargo Bank in interest-bearing accounts. As of year-end, deposits were fully secured by FDIC coverage (Category 1). At September 30, 2023, the carrying amount of the District's deposits was \$66,536, and the bank balance was \$178,535.

The collateral pledged is represented by specific identifiable investment securities and classified as to credit risk by the three categories described below:

- Category 1 – Insured or collateralized with securities held by the District or its agent in the District's name.
- Category 2 – Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the District's name.
- Category 3 – Uncollateralized, including any bank balance that is collateralized or by its trust department or agent but not in the District's name.

NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS

The Public Funds Investment Act authorizes the District to invest funds under a written investment policy. The District's deposits and investments are invested pursuant to the investment policy, which is approved annually by the Board. The primary objectives of the District's investment strategy, in order of priority, are safety, liquidity, and yield.

The District had an investment of \$16,794,073 (fair value) in an external local governmental investment pool, Texas Local Governmental Investment Pool ("TexPool"), as of September 30, 2023. The investments in TexPool had a weighted average maturity of one day and a Standard and Poor's rating of AAAM.

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS (continued)

TexPool is an external investment pool offered to local governments. Although TexPool is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, it operates in a manner consistent with the SEC's Rule 2a7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. TexPool is overseen by the Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts, who is the sole officer, director and shareholder of the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company which is authorized to operate TexPool.

TexPool also has an advisory board to advise on TexPool's investment policy; this board is made up equally of participants and nonparticipants who do not have a business relationship with TexPool.

Federated Investors manages daily operations of TexPool under a contract with the Comptroller and is the investment manager for the pool. TexPool uses amortized cost rather than market value to report net position to compute share prices. Accordingly, the fair value of the position in TexPool is the same as the value of the TexPool shares. TexPool's investment policy stipulates that it must invest in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act.

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 79, the local government investment pools do not have any limitation and restriction on withdrawals such as notice periods or maximum transaction amounts. These pools do not impose any liquidity fees or redemption gates.

Credit Risk- Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. The ratings of securities by nationally recognized agencies are designed to give an indication of credit risk. At September 30, 2023, investments were included in a local governmental investment pool with a rating from Standard and Poor's in compliance with the District's investment policy.

NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS (continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk- Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government's investments in a single issuer. At September 30, 2023, all of the District's investments were with TexPool.

Interest Rate Risk- The District considers the holdings in the local governmental investment pool to have a one day weighted average maturity due to the fact that the share position can usually be redeemed each day at the discretion of the shareholders, unless there has been a significant change in value.

Investment	Fair Value	Effective Duration (in years)	Credit Risk
TexPool	\$ 16,794,073	0.0	AAAm

NOTE 4: DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS

This consists of the following:

State Comptroller – Sales Tax	\$1,137,985
City of Austin – AFD	81,140
Total	\$1,219,125

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 5: CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2023, was as follows:

	Balance 09/30/2022	Additions/ Completions	Retirements/ Adjustments	Balance 09/30/2023
Governmental Activities:				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	134,064	-	-	134,064
Construction-in-Progress	475,014	112,000	(475,014)	112,000
Total capital assets not being depreciated	609,078	112,000	(475,014)	246,064
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Equipment	75,705	-	-	75,705
Buildings and Structures	1,676,061	922,687	-	2,598,748
Total capital assets being depreciated	1,751,766	922,687	-	2,674,453
Total Assets	2,360,844	1,034,687	(475,014)	2,920,517
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Equipment	34,031	6,394	-	40,425
Buildings and Structures	644,423	50,731	-	695,154
Total accumulated depreciation	732,370	57,125	-	735,579
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	1,019,396	865,562	-	1,938,874
Governmental activities capital assets, net	1,628,474	977,562	(475,014)	2,184,938

Depreciation was charged to the governmental activities of \$57,125.

NOTE 6: PROPERTY TAXES

The District has contracted with the Travis County Tax Assessor Collector to bill and collect its property tax. The District's property tax is levied each October 1 on the assessed value listed as of the prior January 1 for all real and business personal property located in the District. An enforceable lien is attached to the property as of January 1. The assessed value of the roll as of January 1, 2022, upon which the 2022 levy was based, was \$4,088,133,025 as certified by the Travis Central Appraisal District.

Taxes are due by January 31 following the October 1 levy date. The total 2022 levy was \$2,452,880 and the combined tax rate was \$0.06 per \$100 assessed valuation for 2022. Property taxes are considered fully collectible and therefore no allowance for uncollectible taxes is provided.

NOTE 7: FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION

The District complies with GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, which establishes fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which a government is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources reported in governmental funds. Those fund balance classifications are described below:

Non-spendable - Amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in a spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 7: FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION (continued)

Restricted - Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constraints imposed by external providers, or imposed by constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - Amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to approval by formal action by the Board.

Assigned - For the General Fund, amounts that are appropriated by the Board or Board designee that are to be used for specific purposes. For all other governmental funds, any remaining positive amounts not previously classified as non-spendable, restricted or committed.

Unassigned - Amounts that are available for any purpose; these amounts can be reported only in the District's General Fund.

The detail of the fund balance is included in the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet on page 10.

Fund balance of the District may be committed for a specific purpose by formal action of the Board, the District's highest level of decision-making authority. Commitments may be established, modified, or rescinded only through a resolution approved by the Board.

In circumstances where an expenditure is to be made for a purpose for which amounts are available in multiple fund balance classifications, the order in which resources will be expended is as follows: restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned fund balance, and lastly, unassigned fund balance.

As of September 30, 2023, the District has not adopted a minimum fund balance policy.

NOTE 8: EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL FUND  
 AND GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

Differences between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Statement of Net Position:

The differences (as reflected in the adjustments column) primarily result from the long-term economic resources focus of the statement of net position versus the current financial resources focus of the governmental fund balance sheet.

When capital assets (land, buildings, equipment) that are to be used in governmental activities are purchased or constructed, the costs of those assets are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, the statement of net position includes those capital assets among the assets of the District as a whole.

Cost of capital assets	\$2,920,517
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>735,579</u>
	<u>\$2,184,938</u>

Taxes receivable are offset by deferred revenues in the governmental funds and thus are not included in fund balance.

Deferred revenue	\$(87,574)
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TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NOTE 8: EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL FUND  
 AND GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS (continued)

Differences between the Governmental Fund Operating Statement and the Statement of Net Activities:

The differences (as reflected in the adjustments column) arise primarily from the long-term economic resources focus of the statement of activities versus the current financial resources focus of the governmental funds.

When capital assets that are to be used in governmental activities are purchased or constructed, the resources expended for those assets are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital outlay	\$(559,673)
Depreciation Expense	\$57,125

Because some property taxes will not be collected for several months after the district's year end, they are not considered as "available" revenues in the governmental funds.

Adjustment for property taxes collected after year-end	\$(11,812)
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NOTE 9: ANNEXATION OF DISTRICT LAND BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN

The City of Austin has the right to annex property within the District which could in the future result in a reduction of the total value of property within the District and therefore a reduction in the total tax revenue to be collected. For the year ending September 30, 2023, the City did hold public hearings regarding annexation of District property. The effects of any annexations to the District's revenue stream is not considered to be significant.

NOTE 10: DATE OF MANAGEMENT'S REVIEW

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the auditor's report, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 11: COMMITMENTS

Effective October 29, 2017, the District no longer operated its own fire department, but instead contracts those services with the City of Austin Fire Department. The contract is renewed annually and is based on costs to the City of providing services to the District, for the current year those payments totaled \$4,666,544.

## Required Supplemental Information

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FOUR  
 BUDGET VS ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	<u>BUDGETED AMOUNTS</u>		<u>ACTUAL AMOUNTS</u>	<u>VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)</u>
	<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>FINAL</u>		
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Property Taxes	\$ 2,430,049	\$ 2,430,049	\$ 2,454,910	24,861
Penalty & Interest	-	-	19,296	19,296
Sales Taxes	4,000,000	4,000,000	6,434,159	2,434,159
Interest	7,500	7,500	722,843	715,343
Miscellaneous Income	1,200	1,200	4,703	3,503
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>\$ 6,438,749</u>	<u>\$ 6,438,749</u>	<u>\$ 9,635,911</u>	<u>3,197,162</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>				
Contract-City of Austin	\$ 4,747,685	\$ 4,747,685	\$ 4,666,544	81,141
Administrative	171,897	171,897	117,089	54,808
Capital Outlay	1,000,000	1,000,000	559,673	440,327
Insurance	10,416	10,416	9,653	763
Stations	107,000	107,000	55	106,945
District Office	5,992	5,992	3,595	2,397
Miscellaneous	6,364	6,364	4,316	2,048
Sales Tax Assurance	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>\$ 6,049,354</u>	<u>\$ 6,049,354</u>	<u>\$ 5,360,925</u>	<u>688,429</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 389,395</b>	<b>\$ 389,395</b>	<b>\$ 4,274,986</b>	<b>3,885,591</b>
Change in fund balance	389,395	389,395	4,274,986	3,885,591
<b>FUND BALANCE:</b>				
Beginning of year			13,741,134	
End of year			<u>\$ 18,016,120</u>	

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements