

**HOPEWELL BOROUGH
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
County of Mercer**

**REPORT OF AUDIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

2024

Schuyler Morehouse
Chairman

Mel Myers
Vice-Chairman

Paul Evans
Commissioner

Greg Davies
Treasurer

John Blasi
Secretary

Financial Section

INVERSO & STEWART, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

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-Member of-
American Institute of CPAs
New Jersey Society of CPAs

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Fire Commissioners
Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1
County of Mercer
Hopewell, New Jersey 08525

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1 (the "Fire District"), in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fire District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion

In my 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 the Fire District, as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division"). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am required to be independent of the District, and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to my audit. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my 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 the Fire District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My 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 my 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 and *Government Auditing Standards* and in accordance with accounting principles and practices prescribed by the Division 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, Government Auditing Standards and audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, I:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in my judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fire District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

I am 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 I 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, budgetary comparison information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, 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. I 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 inquires of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to my inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge I obtained during my audit of the basic financial statements. I do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued my report dated September 26, 2025, on my consideration of the Fire District's internal control over financial reporting and my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of my testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Fire District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

INVERSO & STEWART, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Inverso', is positioned above the printed name.

Robert P. Inverso

Certified Public Accountant

Registered Municipal Accountant No. 436

Marlton, New Jersey
September 26, 2025

INVERSO & STEWART, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Fire Commissioners
Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1
County of Mercer
Hopewell, New Jersey 08525

I have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the audit requirements as prescribed by the Bureau of Authority Regulation, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division"), the financial statements of the governmental activities, and each major fund of Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (the "Fire District"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fire District's basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated September 26, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, I considered the Fire District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District's internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Fire District's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

My consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during my audit I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that I consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fire District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit, and accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and audit requirements as prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and audit requirements as prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey in considering the Fire District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

INVERSO & STEWART, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. P. Inverso', written in a cursive style.

Robert P. Inverso
Certified Public Accountant
Registered Municipal Accountant No. 436

Marlton, New Jersey
September 26, 2025

Required Supplementary Information - Part I

Management's Discussion and Analysis

**Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024**

As management of the Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1, New Jersey (Fire District), we offer readers of the Fire District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the Fire District for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of the Fire District exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$263,337.
- Governmental activities have an unrestricted net position of \$240,527.
- The total net position of the Fire District decreased by \$207,521 or a 44.07% decrease from the prior fiscal year-end balance.
- Fund balance of the Fire District's governmental funds increased by \$313,534 resulting in an ending fund balance of \$3,251,214. This increase is due to the results of operations in the General Fund.

Overview of the Basic Financial Statements

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

District-wide Financial Statements

The *district-wide financial statements* are designed to provide the reader with a broad overview of the financial activities in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The district-wide financial statements include the statement of net assets and the statement of activities.

The *statement of net position* presents information about all of the Fire District's assets and liabilities. The difference between the assets and liabilities is reported as net assets. Over time, changes in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Fire District is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the net assets of the Fire District changed during the current fiscal year. Changes in net assets are recorded in the statement of activities when the underlying event occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement even though the resulting cash flows may be recorded in a future period.

Both of the district-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Fire District that are supported from taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*). Governmental activities consolidate governmental funds including the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Debt Service Fund.

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements are designed to demonstrate compliance with finance-related requirements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific objectives. All of the funds of the Fire District are *governmental funds*.

Governmental funds account for essentially the same information reported in the governmental activities of the district-wide financial statements. However, unlike the district-wide financial statements, the governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term financial resources and fund balances. Such information may be useful in evaluating the financing requirements in the near term.

Since the governmental funds and the governmental activities report information using the same functions, it is useful to compare the information presented. Because the focus of each report differs, a reconciliation is provided on the fund financial statements to assist the reader in comparing the near-term requirements with the long-term needs.

The Fire District maintains three individual governmental funds. The major funds are the General Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, and the Debt Service Fund. They are presented separately in the fund financial statements.

The Fire District adopts an annual appropriated budget for the General Fund and the Debt Service Fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for each of these funds to demonstrate compliance with budgetary requirements.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

The notes to the basic financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements.

District-wide Financial Analysis

The assets of the Fire District are classified as current assets and capital assets. Cash, investments, and receivables are current assets. These assets are available to provide resources for the near-term operations of the Fire District.

Capital assets are used in the operations of the Fire District. These assets are land, buildings, improvements, equipment and vehicles. Capital assets are discussed in greater detail in the section titled, Capital Assets and Debt Administration, elsewhere in this analysis.

Current and long-term liabilities are classified based on anticipated liquidation either in the near-term or in the future. Current liabilities include accounts payable and current debt obligations. The liquidation of current liabilities is anticipated to be either from currently available resources, current assets, or new resources that become available during fiscal year 2025.

An investment of \$203,000 in equipment which provides the services to the Fire District's citizens is offset by \$190,190 in related debt obligations. \$10,000 is reserved for future capital outlays, and \$240,527 is unrestricted.

Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1
Net Position
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023 (as restated)
ASSETS		
Current assets	\$ 347,093	\$ 560,339
Capital assets	203,000	261,000
Length of Service Award, Net	<u>2,996,899</u>	<u>2,473,963</u>
Total assets	<u>3,546,992</u>	<u>3,295,302</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	96,566	101,579
Noncurrent liabilities	<u>3,187,089</u>	<u>2,722,865</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,283,655</u>	<u>2,824,444</u>
Net Position	<u>\$ 263,337</u>	<u>\$ 470,858</u>
Net Position Consists of:		
Net investment in		
Capital Assets	\$ 12,810	\$ 12,098
Restricted Assets	10,000	10,000
Unrestricted Assets	<u>240,527</u>	<u>448,760</u>
Net Position	<u>\$ 263,337</u>	<u>\$ 470,858</u>

Governmental Activities

Governmental activities decreased the net position of the Fire District by \$207,521 during the current fiscal year. Key elements of the decrease in net position for governmental activities are as follows:

- Depreciation expense of \$58,000
- Accounting treatment for the Length of Service Awards Program

Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1
Changes in Net Position
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023 (as restated)
Revenues:		
General Revenues:		
Property Taxes	\$ 224,345	\$ 223,782
Municipal Assistance	380,707	405,491
Other Revenues	8,943	65,821
Total Revenues	<u>613,995</u>	<u>695,094</u>
Expenses:		
Governmental Activities:		
Administration	40,845	41,091
Cost of Operations	614,169	467,256
Length of Service Awards Program	99,995	84,995
Interest on Long-Term Debt	8,507	11,477
Unallocated	58,000	78,560
Total Expenses	<u>821,516</u>	<u>683,379</u>
Change in Net Position	(207,521)	11,715
Net Position, January 1	470,858	459,143
Net Position, December 31	<u><u>\$ 263,337</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 470,858</u></u>

Financial Analysis of the Governmental Funds

As noted earlier, the Fire District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds - The focus of the Fire District's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Fire District's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the Fire District's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$3,251,214, an increase of \$313,534, in comparison with the prior year.

The fund balance for the Fire District at the end of the fiscal year includes a combination of an unreserved fund balance for the General Fund of \$182,698, \$2,996,899 reserved for Length of Service Awards Program, \$10,000 reserved for future capital outlays, \$11,617 reserved for encumbrances, and \$50,000 appropriated as a revenue source in the subsequent year's budget.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance was \$182,698, and the total fund balance of the General Fund was \$254,315. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unreserved fund balance and total fund balance to total General Fund expenditures. Actual expenditures of the General Fund including other financing uses amounted to \$755,009. Unassigned fund balance represents 24.20% of expenditures while total fund balance represents 33.68%.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

The Fire District's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2024, totaled \$203,000 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes equipment. The decrease in the District's investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year was \$58,000, or 22.22%.

Capital Asset (net of accumulated depreciation) For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Equipment	\$ 203,000	\$ 261,000
Net Assets	\$ 203,000	\$ 261,000

Additional information on the Fire District's capital assets can be found in the notes to the basic financial statements (Note 4) of this report.

State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt that the Fire District may issue. At the end of the current fiscal year, the legal debt limit was \$6,359,448. The available amount as of December 31, 2024 is \$6,359,448.

Additional information on the Fire District's debt obligations can be found in the notes to the basic financial statements (Note 4) of this report.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

The following factors were considered and incorporated into the preparation of the Fire District's budget for the 2025 calendar year.

- For the 2025 calendar year, the Fire District local tax levy in the General Fund increased by \$83,800 or 37.4%, resulting in a 2025 tax rate of \$0.09. Operating expenses continue to increase; however, the District has managed to control costs. The 2025 budget is \$12,000 less than the previous year or a 1.4% decrease. The decrease is primarily due to a decrease in capital appropriations.

For the Future

The Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1 is in good financial condition presently. However, a major concern is the continued growth of Hopewell Township, which comprises approximately 70% of the annual service calls, and the ability to provide quality service at an affordable cost.

The Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1 has committed itself to financial excellence for many years. In addition, the Fire District's system for financial planning and budgeting are well regarded. The Fire District plans to continue its sound fiscal management to meet the challenges of the future.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Fire District's finances for all those with an interest in the Fire District. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1, Board of Fire Commissioners, P.O. Box 141, Hopewell, New Jersey 08525.

Basic Financial Statements

District-Wide Financial Statements

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2024

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS:	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 345,687
Accounts receivable	1,406
	<hr/>
Total Current Assets	347,093
	<hr/>
Noncurrent Assets	
Investment in length of service awards program	2,896,904
Receivables, net	99,995
	<hr/>
Total noncurrent assets	2,996,899
	<hr/>
Capital assets, net (Note 4)	203,000
	<hr/>
Total assets	3,546,992
	<hr/>
LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable	92,778
Accrued interest	3,788
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Due within one year	60,995
Due beyond one year	3,126,094
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	3,283,655
	<hr/>
Net Position	
Net investment in capital assets	12,810
Restricted for:	
Future Capital Outlays	10,000
Unrestricted	240,527
	<hr/>
Total net position	\$ 263,337
	<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Indirect Expenses Allocation	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
			Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:					
Administration:					
Other expenses	\$ 40,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (40,845)
Cost of operations:					
Maintenance and repairs	237,813				(237,813)
Vehicle fuel	17,914				(17,914)
Insurance	115,158				(115,158)
Building rent	26,000				(26,000)
Training and education	11,199				(11,199)
Other expenses:					
Computer	1,677				(1,677)
Uniforms	29,759				(29,759)
Ladies auxiliary	2,000				(2,000)
Community services	1,274				(1,274)
Copier	1,600				(1,600)
Personnel	88,000				(88,000)
Fire department budget	13,322				(13,322)
Fire department administration	5,000				(5,000)
EMU budget	8,720				(8,720)
Service awards	1,500				(1,500)
Contracted emergency medical services	17,270				(17,270)
Purchase of nonbondable assets	35,963				(35,963)
Length of service awards program	99,995				(99,995)
Debt service:					
Interest and other charges	8,507				(8,507)
Unallocated		58,000			(58,000)
Total governmental activities	<u>763,516</u>	<u>58,000</u>			<u>(821,516)</u>
Total primary government	<u>\$ 763,516</u>	<u>\$ 58,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (821,516)</u>
General revenues:					
Taxes:					
District taxes, levied for general purposes, net					155,957
District taxes, levied for debt service, net					68,388
Federal and State aid not restricted					703
Municipal assistance					380,707
Miscellaneous income					8,240
Total general revenues, special items, extraordinary items and transfers					<u>613,995</u>
Change in Net Position					(207,521)
Net Position - January 1 - Restated					470,858
Net Position - December 31					<u>\$ 263,337</u>

The accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

Fund Financial Statements

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1

Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2024

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Assets:				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 345,687	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 345,687
Receivables, net	1,406			1,406
Total Current Assets	347,093			347,093
Noncurrent Assets				
Investment in length of service awards program	2,896,904			2,896,904
Receivables, net	99,995			99,995
Total Noncurrent Assets	2,996,899			2,996,899
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,343,992</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,343,992</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 92,778	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92,778
Total liabilities	92,778			92,778
Fund Balances:				
Restricted Fund Balance:				
Reserved for future capital outlays	10,000			10,000
Investment in length of service awards program	2,996,899			2,996,899
Assigned Fund Balance:				
Other purposes	11,617			11,617
Designated for subsequent year's expenditures	50,000			50,000
Unassigned	182,698			182,698
Total fund balances	3,251,214			3,251,214
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 3,343,992</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (A-1) are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. The cost of the assets is \$2,072,074 and the accumulated depreciation is \$1,869,074.	203,000
Accrued interest is not due and payable in the current period and therefore is not reported as a liability in the funds.	(3,788)
The following long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds:	
Financed Purchase Obligations	(190,190)
Length of Service Awards Program	(2,996,899)
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 263,337</u>

The accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
Local sources:				
Local tax levy	\$ 155,957	\$ -	\$ 68,388	\$ 224,345
Municipal assistance	380,707			380,707
Restricted:				
Length of service awards program - contribution	99,995			99,995
Unrealized gain on Investments	485,053			485,053
Miscellaneous	8,240			8,240
Total revenues - local sources	1,129,952		68,388	1,198,340
State sources	703			703
Total revenues	1,130,655		68,388	1,199,043
EXPENDITURES:				
Current expense:				
Administration:				
Other expenses	40,845			40,845
Cost of operations:				
Maintenance and repairs	99,437			99,437
Vehicle fuel	17,914			17,914
Insurance	115,158			115,158
Building rent	26,000			26,000
Training and education	11,199			11,199
Other expenses:				
Computer services	1,677			1,677
Uniforms	29,759			29,759
Ladies auxiliary	2,000			2,000
Community services	1,274			1,274
Copier	1,600			1,600
Personnel	88,000			88,000
Fire department budget	13,322			13,322
Fire department administration	5,000			5,000
EMU budget	8,720			8,720
Service Awards	1,500			1,500
Contracted emergency medical services	17,270			17,270
Purchase of nonbondable assets	35,963			35,963
Length of service awards program:				
Budget appropriation	99,995			99,995
Participant withdrawal	59,212			59,212
Administrative fee	2,900			2,900
Capital Outlay	138,376			138,376
Debt service			68,388	68,388
Total expenditures	817,121		68,388	885,509
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	313,534			313,534
Other Financing Sources (uses):				
Total Other Financing Sources				
Net Change in Fund Balances	313,534			313,534
Fund balances, January 1	2,937,680			2,937,680
Fund balances, December 31	\$ 3,251,214	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,251,214

The accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Activities
for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

Total net change in fund balances - governmental funds (from B-2)	\$ 313,534
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (A-2) are different because:	
Capital outlays are reported in the governmental funds as expenditures. However, on the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current fiscal year.	
Depreciation expense	\$ (58,000)
Fixed asset additions	(58,000)
	<hr/>
In the statement of activities, interest on long-term debt is accrued, regardless of when due. In the governmental funds, interest is reported when due. The accrued interest is an addition in the reconciliation.	1,169
Governmental funds report certain activity related to the length of service awards program as restricted revenues and expenditures, whereas such activity is a component of the length of service awards program liability reported on the statement of net position.	(522,936)
Repayment of financed purchase obligations principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.	58,712
	<hr/>
Change in net position of governmental activities	<u><u>\$ (207,521)</u></u>

The accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Description of Reporting Entity - Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1 is located in Mercer County, New Jersey. It is a political subdivision of the Borough of Hopewell and was formed through the adoption of a Borough ordinance. As of the 2020 United States Census, the Borough's population was 1,897. A Board of five commissioners oversees all operations of the Fire District. The length of each commissioner's term is three years with the annual election held the first Tuesday of every November.

Fire districts are governed by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70 et al. and are organized as a taxing District charged with the responsibility of providing fire fighting services to the residents within its territorial location. Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1 has one fire company within its jurisdiction.

Component Units - GASB Statement No. 14 and GASB No. 39, provide guidance that all entities associated with a primary government are potential component units and should be evaluated for inclusion in the financial reporting entity. A primary government is financially accountable not only for the organizations that meet the criteria established by GASB statements No. 14 and No. 39. In addition, GASB Statement No. 61, provides additional guidance for organizations that do not meet the financial accountability criteria for inclusion as component units but that nevertheless should be included because the primary government's management determines that it would be misleading to exclude them. As of December 31, 2024, it has been determined by the District that no component units exist.

Basis of Presentation -The financial statements of the Fire District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to local governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the District's accounting policies are described below.

The district's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a Statement of Net Position and a Statement of Activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-wide Statements - The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. The Statement of Net Position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the District at year end. The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expenses are not allocated to programs. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues, which are not classified as program revenues, are presented as general revenues of the District, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the District.

Fund Financial Statements - During the fiscal year, the District segregates transactions related to certain District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the District at this more detailed level reporting. The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self balancing set of accounts. There are two categories of funds: governmental and fiduciary.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Governmental Fund - Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. The following are the Fire District's major governmental funds:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Fire District and is used to account for all expendable financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The acquisition of certain capital assets, such as fire fighting apparatus and equipment, is accounted for in the General Fund when it is responsible for the financing of such expenditures.

Special Revenue Fund - The Special Revenue Fund is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources, such as state or federal government grants and appropriations that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

Capital Projects Fund - The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for all financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities such as fire houses. The financial resources are derived from temporary notes or serial bonds which are specifically authorized by the voters as a separate question on the ballot either during the annual election or at a special election.

Debt Service Fund - The Debt Service Fund is used to account for resources that will be used to service principal and interest payments on general long-term liabilities.

Measurement Focus

Government-wide Financial Statements - The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of the Fire District are included on the statement of Net Position.

Fund Financial Statements - All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are included on the balance sheet. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance reports on the sources (i.e. revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e. expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Basis of Accounting - Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Fiduciary funds also use the accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the accrual and the modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred revenue, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

Revenues and Expenses - Revenues are recorded when they are determined to be available and measurable. Generally, fees and other non-tax revenues are recognized when received. Grants from other governments are recognized when qualifying expenditures are incurred. Expenditures are recorded when the related liability is incurred, if measurable, except for unmatured interest on general long-term debt, which is recognized when due.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Expenses/Expenditures - On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

Fire District Taxes - Upon the proper certification to the assessor of the municipality in which the Fire District is located, the assessor shall assess the amount of taxes to be raised in support of the Fire District's budget in the same manner as all other municipal taxes. The collector or treasurer of the municipality shall then pay over to the treasurer or custodian of funds of the Fire District the taxes assessed in accordance with the following schedule: on or before April 1, an amount equaling 21.25% of all moneys assessed; on or before July 1, an amount equaling 22.5% of all moneys assessed; on or before October 1, an amount equaling 25% of all moneys assessed; and on or before December 31, an amount equaling the difference between the total of all moneys so assessed and the total amount of moneys previously paid over.

Budgets/Budgetary Control - The Fire District must adopt an annual budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.1 et al. The fire commissioners must introduce and approve the annual budget not later than sixty days prior to the annual election. At introduction, the commissioners shall fix the time and place for a public hearing on the budget and must advertise the time and place at least ten days prior to the hearing in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the Fire District. The public hearing must not be held less than twenty-eight days after the date the budget was introduced. After the hearing has been held, the fire commissioners may, by majority vote, adopt the budget. Amendments may be made to the Fire District budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.3. The budget may not be amended subsequent to its final adoption and approval, except for provisions allowed by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.5.

Formal budgetary integration into the accounting system is employed as a management control device during the year. For governmental funds, there are no substantial differences between the budgetary basis of accounting and generally accepted accounting principles. Encumbrance accounting is also employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the governmental fund types. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

The budget, a detailed on Exhibits C-1 and F-3, include modifications to the adopted budget that were made during the year as approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Encumbrances - Under encumbrance accounting purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of resources are recorded to reserve a portion of the applicable appropriation. Open encumbrances in governmental funds, other than the special revenue fund, are reported as reservations of fund balances at fiscal year end as they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities but rather commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods and services.

Open encumbrances in the special revenue fund, for which the Fire District has received advances, are reflected in the balance sheet as deferred revenues at fiscal year end.

The encumbered appropriation carries over into the next fiscal year. An entry will be made at the beginning of the next fiscal year to increase the appropriation reflected in the adopted budget by the outstanding encumbrance amount as of the current fiscal year end.

Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments - Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, change funds and cash on deposit with public depositories. All certificates of deposit are recorded as cash regardless of the date of maturity. Investments are stated at cost. Consequently, unrealized gain or loss on investments has not been recorded in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 31.

New Jersey municipal units are required by N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14 to deposit public funds in a bank or trust company having its place of business in the State of New Jersey and organized under the laws of the United States or of the State of New Jersey or in the New Jersey Cash Management Fund. N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15.1 provides a list of investments which may be purchased by New Jersey municipal units. In addition, other State statutes permit investments in obligations issued by local utilities and other state agencies.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

N.J.S.A. 17:9-41et seq. establishes the requirements for the security of deposits of governmental units. The statute requires that no governmental unit shall deposit public funds in a public depository unless such funds are secured in accordance with the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act ("GUDPA"), a multiple financial institutional collateral pool, which was enacted in 1970 to protect governmental units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in New Jersey. Public depositories include State or federally chartered banks, savings banks or associations located in or having a branch office in the State of New Jersey, the deposits of which are federally insured. All public depositories must pledge collateral, having a market value at least equal to five percent of the average daily balance of collected public funds, to secure the deposits of governmental units. If a public depository fails, the collateral it has pledged, plus the collateral of all other public depositories, is available to pay the amount of their deposits to the governmental units.

The cash management plan adopted by the Fire District requires it to deposit funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Act.

Inventories and Prepaid Expenses - Inventories and prepaid expenses which benefit future periods, other than those recorded in the enterprise funds, are recorded as an expenditure during the year of purchase.

Short-Term Interfund Receivables / Payables - Short-term interfund receivables / payables represent amounts that are owed, other than charges for goods or services rendered to/from a particular fund in the Fire District and that are due within one year. These amounts are eliminated in the governmental column of the Statement of Net Position.

Capital Assets

These assets result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the government-wide Statement of Net Position but are not reported in the fund financial statements. All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated fixed assets are valued at their estimated fair market value on the date received. The Fire District maintains a capitalization threshold of \$5,000. The Fire District does not possess any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized; the cost of normal repairs and maintenance that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not. All reported capital assets except land, land improvements and construction in progress are depreciated. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Governmental Activities Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings	30 years
Building Improvements	20 years
Machinery and Equipment	5-20 years
Vehicles	5-20 years

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-84 governs the procedures for the acquisition of property and equipment for Fire Districts, and N.J.S.A. 40A:14-85 to 87 governs procedures for the issuance of any debt related to such purchases. In summary, Fire districts may purchase fire fighting apparatus and equipment and land and buildings to house such property in an amount not exceeding 5 mils on the dollar of the last assessed valuation of property within the district upon the approval of the legal voters. Debt may be issued up to \$60,000 or two percent (2%) of the assessed valuation of property, whichever is larger.

Unearned Revenue - Unearned revenue arises when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied and are recorded as a liability until the revenue is both measurable and the Fire District is eligible to realize the revenue.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations - All payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations are reported on the government-wide financial statements, and all payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations payable from proprietary funds are reported on the proprietary fund financial statements. In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full, from current financial resources are reported as obligations of the funds. However, claims and judgments, compensated absences, special termination benefits and contractually required pension contributions that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are normally expected to be paid with expendable available financial resources. Bonds are recognized as a liability on the fund financial statements when due.

Net Position - Net position represents the difference between the summation of assets and deferred outflows of resources, and the summation of liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net position is classified into the following three components:

Net Investment in Capital Assets - This component represents capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, net of outstanding balances of borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

Restricted - Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Fire District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or law or regulations of other governments.

Unrestricted - Net position is reported as unrestricted when it does not meet the criteria of the other two components of net position.

It is the Fire District's policy to apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted assets are available.

Fund Balance - The Fire District reports fund balance in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the Fire District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. The Fire District's classifications, and policies for determining such classifications, are as follows:

Nonspendable - The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criteria includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash, such as inventories and prepaid amounts.

Restricted - This fund balance classification includes amounts that are restricted to specific purposes. Such restrictions, or constraints, are placed on the use of resources either by being (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - This fund balance classification includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Fire District's highest level of decision-making authority, which for the Fire District is the Board of Fire Commissioners. Once committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board of Fire Commissioners removes, or changes, the specified use by taking the same type of action imposing the commitment.

Assigned - This fund balance classification includes amounts that are constrained by the Fire District's *intent* to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. The Board of Fire Commissioners has the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes.

Unassigned - This fund balance classification is the residual classification for the General Fund. It represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. The general fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. In other governmental funds, if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceed the amounts restricted, committed, or assigned to those purposes, it may be necessary to report a negative unassigned fund balance.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available, it is the Fire District's policy to spend restricted fund balances first. Likewise, when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications can be used, it is the policy of the Fire District to spend fund balances, if appropriate, in the following order: committed, assigned, then unassigned.

Interfunds – Interfund receivables and payables that arise from transactions between funds are recorded by all funds affected by such transactions in the period in which the transaction is executed.

Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Principles – The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued the following statements that have effective dates that may affect future financial presentations:

In June 2023 the GASB issued Statement 101, *Compensated Absences*. 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. The impact of the adoption of this Statement has no effect on the District's financial statements.

NOTE 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Custodial Credit Risk Related to Deposits – Custodial credit risk refers to the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be recovered. Although the Fire District does not have a formal policy regarding custodial credit risk, N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq. requires that governmental units shall deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act.

Under the Act, the first \$250,000 of governmental deposits in each insured depository is protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Public funds owned by the Fire District in excess of FDIC insured amounts are protected by GUDPA. However, GUDPA does not protect intermingled trust funds such as salary withholdings or funds that may pass to the Fire District relative to the happening of a future condition. Such funds are shown as uninsured and uncollateralized. Of the Fire District's amount on deposit of \$365,266 as of December 31, 2024, \$250,000 was insured under FDIC and the remaining balance of \$115,266 was collateralized under GUDPA.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 3. RECEIVABLES

Receivables as of year-end for the Fire District's individual major and fiduciary funds, in the aggregate, are as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Receivables	\$ 1,406	\$ -	\$ 1,406
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ 1,406</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,406</u>

NOTE 4. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, was as follows:

	<u>Balance December 31, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance December 31, 2024</u>
Governmental Activities:				
<i>Capital Assets, being Depreciated:</i>				
Building and Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	2,072,074			2,072,074
Total Historical Cost	2,072,074	-	-	2,072,074
<i>Less Accumulated Depreciation:</i>				
Building and Improvements				-
Equipment	(1,811,074)	(58,000)		(1,869,074)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	(1,811,074)	(58,000)	-	(1,869,074)
Total Capital Assets, being Depreciated, net	261,000	(58,000)		203,000
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 261,000</u>	<u>\$ (58,000)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 203,000</u>

Depreciation expense in the amount of \$58,000 was charged to governmental functions as follows:

<u>Function</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unallocated	\$ 58,000
Total	<u>\$ 58,000</u>

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 5. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the following changes occurred in long-term obligations:

	<u>Principal Outstanding Dec. 31, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Principal Outstanding Dec. 31, 2024</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Financed Purchase Obligations	\$ 248,902	\$ -	\$ 58,712	\$ 190,190	\$ 60,995
Other Liabilities:					
Length of Service Awards Program	2,473,963	585,048	62,112	2,996,899	-
	<u>\$ 2,722,865</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 120,824</u>	<u>\$ 3,187,089</u>	<u>\$ 60,995</u>

Serial Bonds Payable - As of December 31, 2024, the District had no serial bonds outstanding.

Financed Purchase Obligations – As of December 31, 2024, the District had the following financed purchase obligation:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Pumper Fire Truck	March 9, 2027	3.8874%	\$ 190,190

The following is a schedule of the future minimum payments under the financed purchase obligation and the present value of the net minimum payments at December 31, 2024:

<u>Year Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 60,995	\$ 7,393	\$ 68,388
2026	63,366	5,022	68,388
2027	65,829	2,559	68,388
	<u>\$ 190,190</u>	<u>\$ 14,974</u>	<u>\$ 205,164</u>

NOTE 6. PENSION PLANS

The District has no employees and therefore does not participate in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP).

NOTE 7. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB)

The District does not have any postemployment benefits liability as of December 31, 2024.

NOTE 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; employee health and accident claims; and natural disasters. The District has chosen to purchase insurance to transfer risk to outside parties.

Property and Liability Insurance – The District maintains commercial insurance for all risks of loss, including property, liability, and accident insurance. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 9. PROPERTY TAXES

The following is a five-year comparison of certain statistical information relative to property taxes and property tax collections for the current and previous four years.

Comparative Schedule of Tax Rates

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Tax Rate	<u>\$ 0.070</u>	<u>\$ 0.070</u>	<u>\$ 0.070</u>	<u>\$ 0.070</u>	<u>\$ 0.070</u>

Assessed Valuation

<u>Year</u>	
2024	\$ 317,972,400
2023	318,522,900
2022	318,574,800
2021	317,351,900
2020	317,263,500

NOTE 10. FUND BALANCES

The Fire District has classified its fund balances with the following hierarchy:

Nonspendable – The Fire District does not have any nonspendable funds.

Spendable – The Fire District has classified the spendable fund balances as *Restricted*, *Assigned* and *Unassigned* and considered each to have been spent when expenditures are incurred. The Fire District currently has no funds classified as *Committed*.

Restricted Items:

General Fund:

Investment in Length of Service Awards Program – As of December 31, 2024, the balance in Investment in Length of Service Awards Program is \$2,996,899.

Reserved for Future Capital Outlays – As of December 31, 2024, the balance in Reserved for Future Capital Outlays is \$10,000.

Assigned:

General Fund:

Other Purposes – As of December 31, 2024, the Fire District had \$11,617 of encumbrances outstanding for purchase orders and contracts signed by the Fire District, but not completed, as of the close of the year.

Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures – The Fire District has appropriated and included \$50,000 as an anticipated revenue for the year ended December 31, 2025.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 10. FUND BALANCES (Continued)

Unassigned:

General Fund:

The unassigned balance at December 31, 2024 is \$182,698.

The following presents the assigned and unassigned fund balance as of the last five years and the amount utilized in the subsequent year's budget.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>December 31,</u>	<u>Utilized In</u> <u>Budget of</u> <u>Succeeding Year</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>Budget of</u> <u>Succeeding Year</u>
2024	\$ 254,315	\$ 50,000	19.66%
2023	463,717	101,000	21.78%
2022	451,643	58,000	12.84%
2021	367,187	42,000	11.44%
2020	319,217	30,500	9.55%

NOTE 11. RESTATEMENT OF NET POSITION

During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Fire District implemented a change in presentation related to the Length of Service Awards Program ("LOSAP"). In prior years, the Fire District reported the LOSAP investment balance as a component of Net Position in the government-wide statements. As the LOSAP investments represent assets restricted for participants, the Fire District has a corresponding long-term obligation for these balances. Accordingly, the LOSAP has been reclassified on the Statement of Net Position to report the LOSAP investments as an asset, with an offsetting long-term liability.

	<u>Net Position -</u> <u>Governmental Activities</u>
Beginning balance, as previously reported	\$ 2,944,821
Reclassification of LOSAP reserve to long-term liability	(2,473,963)
Beginning balance, as restated	\$ 470,858

NOTE 12. LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM

The Fire District's length of service awards program ("LOSAP"), which is reported in the Fire District's fiduciary fund as a private-purpose trust, was created by a Fire District Resolution pursuant to Section 457 (e)(11)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, except for provisions added by reason of the length of service award program as enacted into federal law in 1997. The voters of the Fire District approved the adoption of the LOSAP at the general election held on February 19, 2000, and the first year of eligibility for entrance into the LOSAP by qualified volunteers was calendar year 2000. The LOSAP provides tax deferred income benefits for the volunteer fire department and the first aid organization.

The tax deferred income benefits for emergency service volunteers come from contributions made solely by the governing body of the Fire District, on behalf of those volunteers who meet the criteria of a plan created by that governing body. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

Borough of Hopewell Fire District No. 1
Notes to Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

NOTE 12. LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (Continued)

Contributions - If an active member meets the year of active service requirement, a length of service awards program must provide a benefit between the minimum contribution of \$100.00 and a maximum contribution of \$1,150.00 per year.

While the maximum amount is established by statute, it is subject to periodic increases that are related to the consumer price index (N.J.S.A. 40A:14-185(f)). The Division of Local Government Services of the State of New Jersey will issue the permitted maximum annually.

The Fire District elected to contribute between \$509.72 and \$1,708.01 for the year ended December 31, 2024, per eligible volunteer, into the Plan, depending on how many years the volunteer has served. Participants direct the investment of the contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Fire District has no authorization to direct investment contributions on behalf of eligible volunteers nor has the ability to purchase or sell investment options offered by the Plan. The types of investment options, and the administering of such investments, rests solely with the plan administrator.

Participant Accounts - Each participant's account is credited with the Fire District's contribution and Plan earnings and charged with administrative expenses. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account. The Fire District has placed the amounts deferred, including earnings, in a trust maintained by a third-party administrator for the exclusive benefit of the plan participants and their beneficiaries. Such funds, although subject to the claims of the Fire District's creditors until distributed as benefit payments, are not available for funding the operations of the Fire District.

Lincoln National Life Insurance Company ("Plan Administrator"), an approved Length of Service Awards Program provider, is the administrator of the Plan. The Fire District's practical involvement in administering the Plan is essentially limited to verifying the eligibility of each participant and remitting the funds to the Plan Administrator.

Vesting - Benefits, plus actual earnings thereon, are one hundred percent (100%) vested after five (5) years of qualified service.

Payment of Benefits - Upon retirement or disability, participants may select various payout options, which include lump sum, periodic, or annuity payments. In the case of death, with certain exceptions, any amount invested under the participant's account is paid to the beneficiary or the participant's estate.

In the event of an unforeseeable emergency, as outlined in the Plan document, a participant or a beneficiary entitled to vested accumulated deferrals may request the local plan administrator to payout a portion of vested accumulated deferrals.

Investments - The investments of the length of service awards program reported on the statement of fiduciary net position are recorded at fair value.

Plan Information - Additional information about the Fire District's length of service awards program can be obtained by contacting the Plan Administrator.

Required Supplementary Information - Part II

Budgetary Comparison Schedules

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Original Budget	Budget Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Final to Actual
REVENUES:					
Local sources:					
District Tax	\$ 155,957	\$ -	\$ 155,957	\$ 155,957	\$ -
Municipal Assist from Adjoining Municipality	514,142		514,142	380,707	(133,435)
Miscellaneous				8,240	8,240
Total local sources	670,099	-	670,099	544,904	(125,195)
State sources:					
Supplemental Fire Services Grant	1,001		1,001	703	(298)
Total state sources	1,001	-	1,001	703	(298)
TOTAL REVENUES	671,100	-	671,100	545,607	(125,493)
EXPENDITURES:					
GENERAL EXPENSE:					
Administration:					
Other Expenses:					
Office expense	13,500	(1,000)	12,500	12,483	17
Office services	11,000	-	11,000	11,000	-
Reimbursement of expenses	1,200	-	1,200	1,173	27
Advertising	1,500	-	1,500	759	741
Professional services	15,500	-	15,500	15,430	70
Total Administration	42,700	(1,000)	41,700	40,845	855
Cost of Operations:					
Other Expenses:					
Maintenance & Repairs	93,800	6,500	100,300	99,437	863
Vehicle Fuel	19,000	(250)	18,750	17,914	836
Insurance	108,000	7,200	115,200	115,158	42
Building Rent	26,000	-	26,000	26,000	-
Training and Education	17,000	(5,200)	11,800	11,199	601
Other Expenses:					
Computer services	2,000	-	2,000	1,677	323
Uniforms	32,500	(2,050)	30,450	29,759	691
Ladies Auxiliary	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-
Community services	1,000	300	1,300	1,274	26
Copier	2,000	-	2,000	1,600	400
Personnel	88,000	-	88,000	88,000	-
Fire department budget	13,600	-	13,600	13,322	278
Fire department administration	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-
EMU budget	9,000	-	9,000	8,720	280
Service awards	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-
Contracted emergency medical services	18,000	(500)	17,500	17,270	230
Contingency	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-
Purchase of nonbondable assets	36,000	-	36,000	35,963	37
Total Other Expense	479,400	1,000	480,400	475,793	4,607
Total Cost of Operations	479,400	1,000	480,400	475,793	4,607

See Management's Discussion and Analysis section of this report for explanation of significant budget variances, original and final.

(CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE)

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

(Continued from prior page)	Original Budget	Budget Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Final to Actual
Length of Service Award Program	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 99,995	\$ 5
Capital Appropriations:					
New utility truck and radio equipment	150,000	-	150,000	138,376	11,624
Reserve for future capital outlays	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Appropriations	150,000	-	150,000	138,376	11,624
Total Expenditures	772,100	-	772,100	755,009	17,091
Less Expenditures to be raised by future taxes					-
Total Expenditures	772,100	-	772,100	755,009	17,091
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(101,000)	-	(101,000)	(209,402)	(108,402)
Other Financing Sources:	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing sources	-	-	-	-	-
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Sources	(101,000)	-	(101,000)	(209,402)	(108,402)
Fund Balance, January 1	463,717	-	463,717	463,717	-
Fund Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 362,717</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 362,717</u>	<u>\$ 254,315</u>	<u>\$ (108,402)</u>
Recapitulation of Fund Balance:					
Restricted Fund Balance:					
Reserve for Future Capital Outlays				\$ 10,000	
Assigned Fund Balance:					
Year-end encumbrances				11,617	
Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures				50,000	
Unassigned Fund Balance				<u>182,698</u>	
Total - Budgetary Basis				254,315	
Reconciliation to governmental fund statements (GAAP):					
Length of service awards program investment balance not recognized on the budgetary basis				<u>2,996,899</u>	
Fund Balance per Governmental Funds (GAAP)				<u>\$ 3,251,214</u>	

See Management's Discussion and Analysis section of this report for explanation of significant budget variances, original and final.

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Notes to Required Supplementary Information
Budgetary Comparison

**Explanation of Differences between Budgetary Inflows and Outflows and GAAP
Revenues and Expenditures**

	General Fund
	<hr/>
Sources/inflows of resources	
Actual amounts (budgetary basis) "revenue" from the budgetary comparison schedules	\$ 545,607
Difference - budget to GAAP:	
Grant accounting budgetary basis differs from GAAP in that encumbrances are recognized as expenditures, and the related revenue is recognized.	-
Length of service awards program:	
Budget Appropriation related to length of service awards program	99,995
Investment Income related to length of service awards program	<hr/> 485,053
 Total revenues as reported on the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - governmental funds	 <hr/> <hr/> \$ 1,130,655
 Uses/outflows of resources	
Actual amounts (budgetary basis) "total expenditures" from the budgetary comparison schedule	\$ 755,009
Differences - budget to GAAP	
Encumbrances for supplies and equipment ordered but not received is reported in the year the order is placed for budgetary purposes, but in the year the supplies are received for financial reporting purposes.	
Length of service awards program:	
Investment loss related to length of service award program	-
Administrative fees	2,900
Participant withdrawals	<hr/> 59,212
 Total expenditures as reported on the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - governmental funds	 <hr/> <hr/> \$ 817,121

Other Supplementary Information

Long-Term Debt Schedules

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
General Long-Term Debt Account Group
Schedule of Financed Purchase Obligations
December 31, 2024

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Dated</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Amount of Original Issue</u>	<u>Balance January 1, 2024</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u>Balance December 31, 2024</u>
Pumper Fire Truck	3/9/2018	3.8874%	\$ 580,000	<u>\$ 248,902</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 58,712</u>	<u>\$ 190,190</u>
			Total	<u><u>\$ 248,902</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 58,712</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 190,190</u></u>

HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
Debt Service Fund
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Original Budget	Budget Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Final to Actual
REVENUES:					
Local sources:					
Local tax levy	\$ 68,388	\$ -	\$ 68,388	\$ 68,388	\$ -
Total revenues - local sources	<u>68,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,388</u>	<u>68,388</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total Revenues	 <u>68,388</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>68,388</u>	 <u>68,388</u>	 <u>-</u>
 EXPENDITURES:					
Regular debt service:					
Principal	58,712		58,712	58,712	-
Interest	<u>9,676</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,676</u>	<u>9,676</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>68,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,388</u>	<u>68,388</u>	<u>-</u>
 Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	 -	 -	 -	 -	 -
 Fund Balances, January 1	 <u>-</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>-</u>
 Fund Balances, December 31	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>

General Comments and Recommendations

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

This section identifies the reportable conditions, material weaknesses, and instances of noncompliance related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and with the requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey.

None.

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR REPORTABLE CONDITIONS AND OTHER FINDINGS AS PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT

This section identifies the status of prior year audit findings related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

There were no prior year audit findings.

APPRECIATION

I express my appreciation for the assistance and courtesies extended to the audit team by the Fire District Commissioners during the course of the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

INVERSO & STEWART, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Inverso'.

Robert P. Inverso
Certified Public Accountant
Registered Municipal Accountant

September 26, 2025