

LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire
Company Relief Association of Harmar
and Springdale Townships
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
For the Period
January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024

November 2025



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Mr. Joshua Wilford, President
Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire
Company Relief Association of Harmar
and Springdale Townships
Allegheny County

We have conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association of Harmar and Springdale Townships (relief association) for the period January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024. The LPE was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, 72 P.S. § 403; and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act ("VFRA Act"), see 35 Pa.C.S. § 7418.

The objectives of the LPE were to determine if the relief association expended funds for authorized purposes and received and deposited state aid funds per the requirements of the VFRA Act and Act 205 of 1984. The scope of our engagement primarily focused on tests of documentary evidence supporting the financial transactions recorded by the relief association for a selection of transactions occurring within the LPE period. The procedures we performed are summarized below.

- Determined the number and amount of expenditures made by the relief association by reviewing its accounting journals, ledgers, and custodial accounts, as applicable. The relief association expended \$77,751 during the LPE period.
- Tested expenditure transactions made during the LPE period totaling \$41,403 by reviewing documentation including bank statements, cancelled checks, invoices, receipts, and meeting minutes to determine if expenditures were made in accordance with state law, and where applicable, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures.
- Interviewed relief association officials concerning relief association operations and transactions.
- Verified that the correct amount of state aid was timely deposited into the relief association's account by reviewing deposit slips, state aid forms, and/or bank statements.

The LPE was not, nor was it required to be, conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

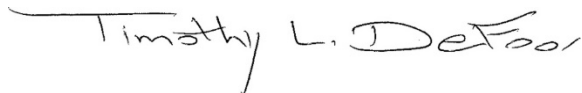
Relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the relief association's administration of state aid and accumulated relief association funds complies with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures, including the safeguarding of assets. Relief association officers are responsible for complying with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures. It is our responsibility to perform procedures to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to the extent necessary to satisfy the engagement objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis to support our LPE results.

Based on the results of the procedures performed during our LPE, nothing came to our attention indicating that the relief association expended funds in an unauthorized manner or failed to deposit state aid funds appropriately.

The accompanying schedules included with the background information are presented for purposes of additional analysis. The schedules are not the subject of this engagement; however, certain line items are covered within the scope of the engagement procedures and resulting conclusion.

Our determination to perform an LPE for this engagement period does not preclude the Department from conducting a compliance audit of the relief association in subsequent periods. The relief association should continue to maintain comprehensive documentation.

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the relief association. We would like to thank relief association officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of this LPE.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the left side of the first name.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
October 29, 2025

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BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,¹ Section 403 of The Fiscal Code,² and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act ("VFRA Act"),³ the Department of the Auditor General's duty is to audit the accounts and records of every volunteer firefighters' relief association to determine that funds received under the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution Law, commonly referred to as Act 205,⁴ are properly expended.

The relief association is a charitable organization that was formed primarily to afford financial protection to volunteer firefighters and to encourage individuals to participate in volunteer fire service.

The VFRA Act governs the overall operation of volunteer firefighters' relief associations. Relief association bylaws define the specific operational procedures by which relief associations conduct business. To fulfill its primary purpose, the VFRA Act authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by the VFRA Act, it is the responsibility of relief associations to choose investments in a proper and prudent manner.

Volunteer firefighters' relief associations receive public tax monies, and the relief association officers therefore have a responsibility to the public to conduct the relief association's financial affairs in a businesslike manner and to maintain sufficient financial records to support the propriety of all relief association transactions. Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are also responsible for ensuring that the relief association operates in accordance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures.

Act 205 sets forth the computation of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution paid to each applicable municipality throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The amount of the distribution is based upon the population of each municipality and the market value of real estate within the municipality. Upon receipt of this distribution, the municipality must allocate the funds to the volunteer firefighters' relief association of the fire service organization or fire service organizations that is or are recognized as providing the service to the municipality.

¹ Pa. Const. Art. VIII § 10.

² 72 P.S. § 403.

³ 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*

⁴ 53 P.S. § 895.701 *et seq.*

BACKGROUND – (Continued)

The relief association was allocated state aid from the following municipalities:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Harmar Township	Allegheny	\$21,086	\$26,980	\$26,303	\$26,689
Springdale Township	Allegheny	\$ 7,261	\$ 8,597	\$ 8,629**	\$ 8,748**
Cheswick Borough	Allegheny	*	\$ 9,537	\$ 9,564	\$ 9,707

* During the current audit period, the relief association did not receive a 2021 allocation of state aid from Cheswick Borough. Municipalities have sole discretion to distribute their annual allocation of state aid received to any relief association providing fire service to the municipality.

** Although Springdale Township submitted Certification Form AG 385 for both 2023 and 2024 by the March 31 annual filing deadline, in accordance with the Municipal Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act of December 18, 1984, (P.L. 1005, No. 205), as amended (Act 205), Springdale Township did not distribute the 2024 foreign fire insurance premium tax allocation to the relief association in a timely manner. The allocation was distributed to the municipal treasurer on September 18, 2024, but was not forwarded to the relief association until February 13, 2025. Springdale Township's disbursement to the relief association was not within 60-days distribution requirement outlined in Section 706 (b)(2) of Act 205. Upon receipt of the allocation, the relief association deposited the funds into the relief association's bank account on February 18, 2025.

In addition, Springdale Township failed to complete the 2023 and 2024 Receipt And Distribution Of Foreign Fire Insurance Premium Tax Form 706-B online as required by the instructions accompanying Form 706-B and the instructions accompanying the 2023 and 2024 state aid allocation received by Springdale Township.

Springdale Township is required to complete a 2023 and a 2024 Receipt And Distribution Of Foreign Fire Insurance Premium Tax Form 706-B online within the Department of Community & Economic Development's Municipal Statistics website (MunStats) immediately.

Based on the relief association's records, its total cash as of December 31, 2024, was \$355,463, as illustrated below:

Cash	<u>\$ 355,463</u>
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BACKGROUND – (Continued)

Based on the relief association's records, its total expenditures for the period January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024, were \$77,751, as noted below:

Expenditures:

Benefit Services:

Insurance premiums	\$ 14,637
Death benefits	12,500
Total Benefit Services	<u>\$ 27,137</u>

Fire Services:

Equipment purchased	\$ 37,614
Equipment maintenance	797
Training expenses	9,750
Total Fire Services	<u>\$ 48,161</u>

Administrative Services:

Bond premiums	\$ 1,664
Other administrative expenses	789
Total Administrative Services	<u>\$ 2,453</u>

Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 77,751</u>
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The volunteer firefighters' relief association and the affiliated fire service organization are separate, legal entities. The relief association is affiliated with the following fire service organization:

Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company

ALLEGHENY VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF
HARMAR AND SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIPS
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association of Harmar and Springdale
Townships Governing Body:

Mr. Joshua Wilford
President

Mr. Tyler Kelly
Vice President

Mr. Mason Kauper
Secretary

Mr. Donald Trebac
Treasurer

The following municipalities allocated foreign fire insurance tax monies to this relief association and received a copy of this report:

Ms. Jennifer Steiner
Secretary
Harmar Township

Mr. William McElligott
Secretary
Springdale Township

Mr. Jaime Varshine
Secretary
Cheswick Borough

ALLEGHENY VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF
HARMAR AND SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIPS
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