

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

York Area United Fire and Rescue Union Defined Benefit Pension Plan York County, Pennsylvania

February 2025



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL**

York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission
York County
York, PA 17402

We have conducted a compliance audit of the York Area United Fire and Rescue Union Defined Benefit Pension Plan pursuant to authority derived from the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (Act 205 of 1984, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.402(j)), which requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to audit every municipality which receives general municipal pension system state aid and every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system state aid is deposited. The audit was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We planned and performed the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our audit was limited to the area related to the objective identified above. To determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, our methodology included the following:

- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, we determined whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt.

- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, we determined whether employer contributions were calculated and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by examining the municipality's calculation of the plan's financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation (MMO) and comparing these calculated amounts to amounts actually budgeted and deposited into the pension plan as evidenced by supporting documentation.
- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, we determined whether employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by testing total members' contributions using the rates obtained from the plan's governing document in effect for the period noted and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan.
- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, we determined that there were no benefit calculations prepared.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report was prepared and submitted by March 31, 2024 in accordance with Act 205 and whether selected information provided on this report is accurate, complete, and in accordance with plan provisions to ensure compliance for participation in the state aid program by comparing selected information to supporting source documentation.

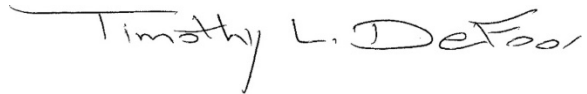
York Area United Fire and Rescue contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the commission's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Commission officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the York Area United Fire and Rescue Union Defined Benefit Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. As previously described, we tested transactions, interviewed selected officials, and performed procedures to the extent necessary to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance with legal and regulatory requirements or noncompliance with provisions of contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies that are significant within the context of the audit objective.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the York Area United Fire and Rescue Union Defined Benefit Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies for the periods noted above.

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information or conclude on it and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank commission officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
December 27, 2024

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BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). The Act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state aid to Pennsylvania's public pension plans.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a two percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) fire insurance tax designated for paid firefighters and any investment income earned on the collection of these taxes. Generally, municipal pension plans established prior to December 18, 1984, are eligible for state aid. For municipal pension plans established after that date, the sponsoring municipality must fund the plan for three plan years before it becomes eligible for state aid. In accordance with Act 205, a municipality's annual state aid allocation cannot exceed its actual pension costs.

In addition to Act 205, the York Area United Fire and Rescue (YAUFR) Union Defined Benefit Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

YAUFR was formed from the consolidation of the Spring Garden Township and Springettsbury Township fire departments. Former Springettsbury Township firefighters are now members of the YAUFR Union Defined Benefit Pension Plan. The plan is not open to new members. The plan was transferred from Springettsbury Township effective January 1, 2011.

The YAUFR Union Defined Benefit Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 2011-03, as amended, and a separately executed plan agreement with the plan's custodian. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between YAUFR and its firefighters. The plan was established April 29, 2010. Active members are required to contribute 5 percent of compensation to the plan. As of December 31, 2023, the plan had 8 active members, 3 terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, and 11 retirees receiving pension benefits from the plan.

YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE UNION DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Historical trend information about the plan is presented herewith as supplementary information. It is intended to help users assess the plan’s funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating assets to pay benefits when due, and make comparisons with other state and local government retirement systems.

The actuarial information is required by Act 205 biennially. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2019, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a)	Funded Ratio (a)/(b)
01-01-19	\$ 5,166,537	\$ 5,903,295	\$ 736,758	87.5%
01-01-21	6,865,888	6,533,865	(332,023)	105.1%
01-01-23	6,473,117	6,673,012	199,895	97.0%

YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE UNION DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies, and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the actuarial accrued liability as a factor.

Analysis of the dollar amount of the actuarial value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, and unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability (Column 4) provides one indication of the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage, over time, indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan.

YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE UNION DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Actual Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered- Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll
2014	\$ 220,949	\$ 220,949	\$ -	*	
2015	255,366	255,366	-	\$ 998,594	25.57%
2016	263,647	263,647	-	874,933	30.13%
2017	241,816	241,816	-	826,512	29.26%
2018	255,894	255,894	-	689,073	37.14%
2019	285,277	285,277	-	696,963	40.93%
2020	286,721	286,721	-	619,744	46.26%
2021	285,162	285,162	-	621,091	45.91%
2022	99,239	99,239	-	637,836	15.56%
2023	100,491	100,491	-	675,781	14.87%

* This schedule is presented pursuant to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans* by reporting entities responsible for administering the pension plan to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans. Due to the statement being implemented only recently, the amount of Covered-Employee Payroll was not provided for 2014.

YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE UNION DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
(UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the date indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation date follows:

Actuarial valuation date	January 1, 2023
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Remaining amortization period	10 years
Asset valuation method	Market value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	6.50%
Projected salary increases	3.50%

YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE UNION DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Daniel Rooney
Chairman, Fire Commission

Mr. Daniel J. Hoff
Fire Chief

Ms. Lisa Einsig
Administrative Director

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.