



SCOTT FITZPATRICK
MISSOURI STATE AUDITOR

Honorable Michael L. Parson, Governor
and
Members of the General Assembly
and
Boards of Directors of Fire Protection
Districts in Greene County

Certain fire protection districts are required by Section 321.690, RSMo, to be audited and to submit their audit reports to the State Auditor's Office (SAO). To address our statutory responsibilities of Section 321.690.3, RSMo, and regulatory requirements of 15 CSR 40-4.010 to 15 CSR 40-4.020, we have reviewed the independent audit reports of the fire protection districts in Greene County for audit periods ending December 31, 2023, submitted as of September 30, 2024. The purpose of this review is to evaluate the districts' compliance with statutory audit requirements and SAO regulations included in the Code of State Regulations. Because our review is limited to statutory and regulatory compliance, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on the audit reports.

There are 11 fire protection districts in Greene County. Each district has a fiscal year end of December 31. All of the districts except for Ash Grove submitted audit reports for the year or 2 years ended December 31, 2023, when required. Section 321.690.2, RSMo, requires certain fire protection districts to have an audit performed biennially, and Section 321.690.3, RSMo, requires the districts to forward the audit report to our office within 6 months of fiscal year end. Some of the districts were not required to submit a report in 2024, because they obtain biennial audits and the most recent audit report submitted was for the 2 years ended December 31, 2022. These districts are expected to submit a biennial audit report for the 2 years ended December 31, 2024. The Ash Grove district did not timely obtain the required independent audit for the 2 years ended December 31, 2023. However, the district has engaged independent auditors to perform an audit for that period. Upon completion of the audit, the district is expected to submit the report to the SAO.

As noted in our prior report, No. 2023-058, *Greene County Fire Protection Districts*, issued in September 2023, the district of Brookline did not timely obtain the required independent audit for the 2 years ended December 31, 2022. The SAO received the audit report on September 29, 2023, subsequent to that review.

The SAO posts the individual audit reports to the office's website. A searchable link is available at <https://auditor.mo.gov>. A table summarizing our review of the submitted audit reports follows.

| District | Audit Report Period | Report Complied with Section 321.690.3, RSMo | Findings in Independent Audit Report |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Ash Grove | | No | Not Applicable |
| Battlefield | 1 Year Ended 12/31/23 | Yes | No |
| Bois D'Arc | 2 Years Ended 12/31/23 | Yes | No |
| Brookline ¹ | Not applicable ² | | |
| Ebenezer | 1 Year Ended 12/31/23 ³ | Yes | No |
| Fair Grove | Not applicable ² | | |
| Logan-Rogersville | Not applicable ² | | |
| Strafford | 1 Year Ended 12/31/23 | Yes | No |
| Walnut Grove | 1 Year Ended 12/31/23 | Yes | No |
| West Republic | Not applicable ² | | |
| Willard | 1 Year Ended 12/31/23 | Yes | No |

¹ Due to noncompliance in a previous period, the SAO reviewed the audit report for the 2 years ended December 31, 2022, submitted September 29, 2023. The audit report had no audit findings and was in compliance with Section 321.690.3, RSMo, except for being filed after the statutory deadline.

² The fire protection district had an independent audit for the 2 years ended December 31, 2022. The district's next audit is expected to cover the 2 years ended December 31, 2024, and is required to be submitted to the SAO no later than June 30, 2025.

³ The fire protection district changed the audit reporting period from biennial to annual in 2022. The SAO also reviewed the audit report for the 1 year ended December 31, 2022, submitted June 29, 2023. The audit report had no audit findings and was in compliance with Section 321.690.3, RSMo.

Except for the district of Ash Grove failing to obtain and submit an audit report, we identified no other concerns from our review of the audit reports submitted by the Greene County fire protection districts.



Scott Fitzpatrick
State Auditor

November 2024
Report No. 2024-092