

## **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION**

### **AGREED UPON PROCEDURES**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT 1% FUNDS**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### **FOR THE PERIODS ENDED DECEMBER, 2024**

---

#### **Findings from Follow Up Visits:**

1. We noted the Department has accumulated a significant balance of 1% funds as a result of making very few disbursements over the prior years. We recommend the Department review the Association's expenditure guidelines to determine how best to use the funds to provide the greatest benefit for the members of the Department. (15)
2. The Department did not prepare formal bank reconciliations during the period under review or the reconciliations were not reviewed by someone independent of the preparer. We recommend that someone independent of the check signer reconcile the bank statement to the check register on a monthly basis and that someone independent of the preparer review the bank reconciliation on a monthly basis in order to ensure proper segregation of duties. The preparer and reviewer should sign and date the reconciliation as evidence of the timely preparation and independent review. (12)
3. The Department did not obtain required approvals for disbursements made during the year. While some of the disbursements were properly supported by invoices and represented allowable expenditures in accordance with the Association's guidelines, we recommend the Department obtain proper approvals through the completion of an Annual Budget (Form 202) or Expenditure Approval Form (Form 201) prior to disbursing funds. Even if the department does not receive 1% funds, they must still submit forms for approval to the Association for any disbursements over \$100. (11)
4. Forms 202, 205, 206 or 207 were not properly prepared or submitted within the Association's required deadlines. It is important that all forms are submitted to the Association on a timely basis. (11)
5. We noted the Department did not maintain a listing of attendees for drill night or holiday dinners. As a result, we were unable to verify compliance with the Association's per meal limits. We recommend the Department closely monitor the cost of meals when approving disbursements in order to ensure the Department adheres to the Association's guidelines. (4)
6. No disbursements of 1% funds were made during 2024. As a result, we were unable to verify the Department's compliance with the Association's guidelines. We recommend the Department review the Association's expenditure guidelines to determine how best to use the funds to provide the greatest benefit for the members of the Department. (3)
7. The individual depositing the 1% funds is also the individual responsible for recording the transaction in the general ledger. We recommend that the individual recording the transaction be independent from the individual responsible for depositing the 1% funds in order to ensure proper segregation of duties. (3)

8. The Department was missing bank statements. We recommend that the Department retain copies of all bank statements as evidence of compliance with the 1% guidelines. (3)
9. Supporting documentation (such as invoices or receipts) was not available for certain disbursements tested. It is important to ensure that original documentation be maintained for all cash disbursements. If original documentation is lost, it should be noted as such and signed by the person(s) involved; it should include a description of the purpose of the disbursement, and attempts should be made to obtain copies of supporting documentation. Checks should not be prepared, signed and disbursed until supporting documentation is received and approved, or until the lost supporting documentation is noted as such. (2)
10. All 1% fund checks must require two signatures. The current policy requires only one signature or the policy was not applied consistently. (1)
11. The cost per attendee for holiday dinners exceeded the per meal limit established by the Association. We recommend the Department closely monitor the cost of meals when approving disbursements in order to ensure the Department adheres to the Association's guidelines. (1)
12. The Department's 1% funds were comingled with other funds during the period tested. We recommend 1% funds be maintained in a separate bank account from other funds, in accordance with the Association's guidelines, in order to properly track all activity related to the 1% funds and mitigate the risk that funds will be disbursed for unallowable or unapproved expenses. (1)

#### **Findings from Initial Visits:**

1. The Department did not prepare bank reconciliations monthly during the period under review or the bank reconciliations were not reviewed by someone independent of the preparer. We recommend that someone independent of the check signer reconcile the bank statement to the check register on a monthly basis and that someone independent of the preparer review the bank reconciliation on a monthly basis in order to ensure proper segregation of duties. The preparer and reviewer should sign and date the reconciliation as evidence of the timely preparation and independent review. (26)
2. The Department did not retain a listing of attendees for the drill night or holiday meals. Therefore, we were unable to test compliance with the per meal limits established by the Association. We recommend the Department monitor the cost of meals when approving disbursements in order to ensure the Department adheres to the Association's guidelines. Additionally, the Department should maintain a detailed list of attendees for all such dinners to support the expenditures incurred. (21)
3. Supporting documentation (such as invoices, receipts or deposit slips) was not available for certain transactions tested. It is important to ensure that original documentation be maintained for all cash receipts and disbursements. If original documentation is lost, it should be noted as such and signed by the person(s) involved; it should include a description of the purpose of the disbursement, and attempts should be made to obtain copies of supporting documentation. Checks should not be prepared, signed and disbursed until supporting documentation is received and approved, or until the lost supporting documentation is noted as such. (20)
4. Forms 206 or 207 were not properly prepared or submitted within the Association's required deadlines. It is important that all forms are submitted to the Association on a timely basis. (20)

5. The Department did not obtain required approvals for disbursements made during the year. While the disbursements were properly supported by invoices and represented allowable expenditures in accordance with the Association's guidelines, we recommend the Department obtain proper approvals through the completion of an Annual Budget (Form 202) or Expenditure Approval Form (Form 201) prior to disbursing funds. (17)
6. The Department has accumulated a significant balance of 1% funds. We recommend the Department review the Association's expenditure guidelines to determine how best to use the funds to provide the greatest benefit for the members of the Department. (15)
7. The individual depositing the 1% funds is also the individual responsible for recording the transaction in the general ledger. We recommend that the individual recording the transaction be independent from the individual responsible for depositing the 1% funds in order to ensure proper segregation of duties. (11)
8. All 1% fund checks must require two signatures. The current policy requires only one signature. (9)
9. The Department did not provide a check register or general ledger or it was incomplete; thus, we were unable to verify if deposits or checks had been properly recorded. We recommend that the Department maintain a check register listing all transactions, dates, and other pertinent information at a minimum. (7)
10. We noted the Department's process often involves using the Town's credit card to make purchases and then reimburses the Town from the 1% account. We recommend acquiring a separate debit or credit card that is restricted to the 1% account. (3)
11. For Departments located in unincorporated communities, State law (article 3, section 23-9-330) requires the County Treasurer to serve on the Local Board of Trustees of the 1% funds and to serve as the Department's Treasurer. Additionally, State law requires the Board to consist of the County Treasurer and of such residents of the community as may be appointed by the Treasurer on a recommendation by a majority of the legislative delegation or delegations of the county in which the community is located. (2)
12. The cost per attendee for holiday dinners exceeded the per meal limit established by the Association. We recommend the Department closely monitor the cost of meals when approving disbursements in order to ensure the Department adheres to the Association's guidelines. (2)
13. Deposits were not made in a timely manner. We recommend all receipts be deposited in the bank within one day of collection in order to mitigate the risk of misappropriation of funds. (1)
14. The Department's 1% funds were comingled with other funds during the period tested. We recommend 1% funds be maintained in a separate bank account from other funds, in accordance with the Association's guidelines, in order to properly track all activity related to the 1% funds and mitigate the risk that funds will be disbursed for unallowable or unapproved expenses. (1)
15. No disbursements of 1% funds were made during the period under review. As a result, we were unable to verify the Department's compliance with the Association's guidelines. We recommend the Department review the Association's expenditure guidelines to determine how best to use the funds to provide the greatest benefit for the members of the Department. (1)