



Pennsylvania Department of the

# AUDITOR GENERAL

Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General

Twitter: @PaAuditorGen

## News for Immediate Release

June 26, 2019

### Auditor General DePasquale Releases Audits for Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Associations in 20 Counties

**HARRISBURG** – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today announced the release of audit reports for volunteer firefighters' relief associations (VFRAs) in Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Fayette, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Schuylkill, Somerset, Venango, Washington, Wayne and Westmoreland counties.

“My audits of volunteer firefighter relief associations ensure that critical funds are used properly in helping volunteer firefighters save lives and protect communities,” DePasquale said.

The Department of the Auditor General audits VFRAs, which receive state aid from a 2 percent state tax on fire insurance premiums purchased by Pennsylvania residents from out-of-state casualty insurance companies.

In 2018, 2,518 municipalities received \$55.1 million in state aid for distribution to VFRAs to provide training, purchase equipment and insurance, and pay for death benefits for volunteer firefighters.

The full audit reports for VFRAs with findings are available online using the links provided below; others are available online at: [www.PaAuditor.gov/audit-reports](http://www.PaAuditor.gov/audit-reports).

#### **Allegheny County**

[Braddock Fire Department No. 2 VFRA](#) – No findings

[East McKeesport VFRA](#) – No findings

[Heidelberg VFRA](#) – No findings

#### **Beaver County**

[Chippewa Township VFRA](#) – No findings

[Patterson Township VFRA](#) – No findings

#### **Bedford County**

[Alum Bank Community VFRA](#) – No findings

#### **Berks County**

[Kenhorst VFRA](#) – No findings

#### **Bucks County**

[Eddington VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster.

#### **Chester County**

[Wagontown VFRA](#) – No findings

**Fayette County**

[Point Marion VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: noncompliance with prior audit recommendation for insufficient bond coverage.

**Franklin County**

[Franklin VFRA](#) – No findings

**Lackawanna County**

[Madisonville Independent VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: undocumented expenditures.

The VFRA did not provide adequate documentation to support \$650 in training vendor expenses.

**Lancaster County**

[Brickerville VFRA](#) – No finding

**Lawrence County**

[New Wilmington VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: non-compliance with prior audit recommendation for inadequate relief association bylaws.

**Luzerne County**

[Pittston VFRA](#) – No findings

**Lycoming County**

[South Williamsport Area VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: noncompliance with prior audit recommendation for failure to secure possession of all relief association-owned equipment.

The association did not secure all assets from the former South Williamsport Joint Firemen’s Relief Association after it was dissolved.

**Montgomery County**

[West Pottsgrove Township VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for four findings: undocumented expenditures, failure to maintain a complete and accurate membership roster and noncompliance with prior audit recommendations for failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster and inadequate minutes of meetings.

The VFRA did not provide adequate documentation for \$13,718 in training, equipment and insurance vendor costs, dues and mileage reimbursements. The two biggest expenditures included: \$9,017 for an insurance vendor and \$2,000 for training.

**Schuylkill County**

[Donaldson Fire Co. No. 1 VFRA](#) – No findings

[Shenandoah VFRA](#) – No findings

**Somerset County**

[New Centerville and Rural Firefighters VFRA](#) – No findings

**Venango County**

[Chapmanville VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster.

**Washington County**

[Donora VFRA](#) – No findings

**Wayne County**

[Beach Lake VFRA](#) – No findings

**Westmoreland County**

[Chestnut Ridge VFRA](#) – No findings

###