

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Bedford Firemen's Relief Association of the State of Pennsylvania Bedford County For the Period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018

March 2019



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. David Shedlock, President
Bedford Firemen's Relief Association
of the State of Pennsylvania
Bedford County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Bedford Firemen's Relief Association of the State of Pennsylvania (relief association) pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and mandated by the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010 (P.L. 1181, No. 118), at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if the relief association took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report.
2. To determine if the relief association 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.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objectives identified above and was not required to be and was not 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 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 audit objectives. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions.

Based on our audit procedures, we conclude that, for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018:

- The relief association took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report.
- The relief association, in all significant respects, 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.

The supplementary financial information contained in this report is presented for purposes of additional disclosure and analysis. We performed only limited procedures on the supplementary financial information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

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

March 22, 2019



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010, (P.L. 1181, No. 118), at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, 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, Act of December 18, 1984, (P.L. 1005, No. 205), as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.701 *et seq.* (commonly referred to as Act 205), 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.

Act 118 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, Act 118 authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by Act 118, 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 association officers therefore have a responsibility to the public to conduct the association's financial affairs in a businesslike manner and to maintain sufficient financial records to support the propriety of all association transactions. Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are also responsible for ensuring that the 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.

BACKGROUND – (Continued)

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

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Bedford Borough	Bedford	\$15,726	\$14,624	\$13,315
Bedford Township	Bedford	\$39,880	\$38,661	\$34,284
Colerain Township	Bedford	\$ 7,929	\$ 8,535	\$ 7,773
East St. Clair Township	Bedford	\$ 2,558	\$ 2,502	\$ 2,131
Napier Township	Bedford	\$ 2,080	\$ 2,085	\$ 1,900
Rainsburg Borough	Bedford	\$ 625	\$ 570	\$ 520
Snake Spring Township	Bedford	\$ 6,029	\$ 5,939	\$ 5,457

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:

Bedford Fire Department No. 1

BEDFORD FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

COMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

The relief association has complied with the prior audit finding and recommendation, as follows:

- Untimely Deposit Of State Aid

By timely depositing all state aid income received.

We commend the relief association management for its efforts in complying with the finding and recommendation contained in the prior audit report. The association management should strive to remain in compliance with all applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

BEDFORD FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION
CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

Cash	\$ 42,170
Fair Value of Investments	<u>1,511,177</u>
Total Cash and Investments	<u><u>\$ 1,553,347</u></u>

BEDFORD FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION
 SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES
 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Expenditures:

Benefit Services:	
Insurance premiums	\$ 62,514
Death benefits	20,000
Total Benefit Services	\$ 82,514
Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 49,096
Equipment maintenance	2,816
Training expenses	6,879
Total Fire Services	\$ 58,791
Administrative Services:	
Other administrative expenses	\$ 1,494
Bond premiums	1,824
Total Administrative Services	\$ 3,318
Total Investments Purchased	\$ 125,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 269,623

BEDFORD FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Bedford Firemen's Relief Association of the State of Pennsylvania Governing Body:

Mr. David Shedlock
President

Mr. Rocky Fetter
Vice President

Mr. Jay Speicher
Secretary

Mr. Marvin Bennett
Treasurer

BEDFORD FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

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

Ms. Barbara E. Diehl
Secretary
Bedford Borough

Ms. Janie L. McMillen
Secretary
Bedford Township

Ms. Madelyn N. Fix
Secretary
Colerain Township

Ms. Bonnie Cornell
Secretary
East St. Clair Township

Ms. Lesley Kennedy
Secretary
Napier Township

Mr. Wayne C. Koontz
Secretary
Rainsburg Borough

Ms. Rose Diehl
Secretary
Snake Spring Township

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.