

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Mountville Fire Company No. 1 Firemen's Relief Association Lancaster County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024

December 2025



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General
Twitter: @PAAuditorGen
www.PaAuditor.gov

TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Richard Delgiorno, President
Mountville Fire Company No. 1
Firemen's Relief Association
Lancaster County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Mountville Fire Company No. 1 Firemen's Relief Association (relief association) for the period January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, 72 P.S. § 403; and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act ("VFRA Act"), see 35 Pa.C.S. § 7418.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if the relief association took appropriate corrective action to address the findings 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, nor was it required to be, conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

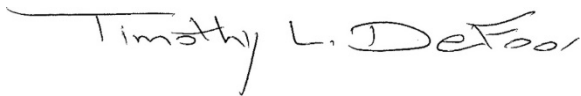
Relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the relief association's administration of state aid and accumulated relief association funds complies with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative 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, 2021, to December 31, 2024:

- The relief association took appropriate corrective action to address one of the two findings contained in our prior audit report. However, the relief association failed to take appropriate corrective action to address the one remaining finding contained in our prior audit report, as listed below, and discussed in the Status of Prior Findings section of this 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, except as noted in the finding listed below and discussed later in this report.

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Failure To Maintain A Complete And Accurate Cumulative Equipment Roster And Failure To Conduct An Annual Physical Inventory Of Equipment

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the relief association and, where appropriate, their response has been included in the report.



Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
November 18, 2025

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BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,¹ Section 403 of The Fiscal Code,² and the Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Association Act (“VFRA Act”),³ 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, commonly referred to as Act 205,⁴ 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.

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

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

Municipality	County	2021	2022	2023	2024
Mountville Borough	Lancaster	\$13,575	\$17,287	\$17,288	\$17,499
West Hempfield Township	Lancaster	\$10,898	\$13,702	\$13,644	\$13,767

¹ Pa. Const. Art. VIII § 10.

² 72 P.S. § 403.

³ 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*

⁴ 53 P.S. § 895.701 *et seq.*

BACKGROUND – (Continued)

Based on the relief association’s records, its total cash as of December 31, 2024, was \$37,979, as illustrated below:

Cash	<u>\$ 37,979</u>
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Based on the relief association’s records, its total expenditures for the period January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024, were \$137,906, as noted below. The accuracy of these expenditures was evaluated as part of the Department’s audit to conclude on the relief association’s compliance 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.⁵ **The scope of the Department’s audit does not include the issuance of an opinion on the accuracy of these amounts.**

Expenditures:

Benefit Services:	
Insurance premiums	<u>\$ 26,106</u>
Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 59,236
Equipment maintenance	38,886
Training expenses	12,207
Fire prevention materials	<u>1,156</u>
Total Fire Services	<u>\$ 111,485</u>
Administrative Services:	
Bond premiums	\$ 300
Other administrative expenses	<u>15</u>
Total Administrative Services	<u>\$ 315</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 137,906</u>

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:

Mountville Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

⁵ Accuracy was evaluated for a selection of transactions based on dollar amount, category, and/or random selection.

MOUNTVILLE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

COMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

The relief association has complied with one of the two prior audit findings and recommendations, as follows:

- Undocumented Expenditure

By receiving reimbursement of \$83 from the affiliated fire company for the undocumented expenditure that was made in the prior audit period.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

The relief association has not complied with one of the two prior audit findings. This finding is noted below and discussed in detail in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report:

- Failure To Maintain A Complete And Accurate Cumulative Equipment Roster And Failure To Conduct An Annual Physical Inventory Of Equipment

We are concerned by the relief association's failure to correct this previously reported audit finding. The relief association management should strive to implement the recommendation and corrective action noted in this audit report.

MOUNTVILLE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Failure To Maintain A Complete And Accurate Cumulative Equipment Roster And Failure To Conduct An Annual Physical Inventory Of Equipment

Condition: The relief association failed to maintain a complete and accurate cumulative roster of equipment owned by the relief association. Although a roster of relief association owned equipment was provided during the current audit, the roster was incomplete as it did not contain the dates of purchase or the cost of the equipment. In addition, the roster appears to include certain equipment owned by the affiliated fire company. Furthermore, there was no evidence that a physical inventory of equipment was conducted on an annual basis to account for the equipment owned by the relief association.

A similar condition was noted in our prior audit report.

Criteria: Prudent business practice dictates that the relief association establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the maintenance of a complete and accurate cumulative roster of equipment purchased by the relief association and that the performance of an annual physical inventory of all equipment is documented. A complete and accurate cumulative equipment roster of all relief association purchased equipment should include the following:

- Types of equipment purchased
- Dates of purchase
- Unit costs
- Names of suppliers from which the equipment was purchased
- Serial numbers, if applicable
- Current location(s) of items
- Final dispositions if damaged, sold or disposed of
- Evidence of the performance, date, and results of an annual physical inventory

Cause: The relief association officials stated that there was a recent change in officers and the standard operation procedures were not defined. The relief association did not provide a reason why the list contained certain equipment of the affiliated fire company.

Effect: Continued failure to properly record equipment purchases in a complete and accurate cumulative equipment roster prevents relief association officials from effectively monitoring the relief association's equipment purchases. In addition, failure to maintain a complete and accurate cumulative equipment roster that includes only relief association equipment, and failure to perform an annual physical inventory of the equipment prevents adequate accountability for, and safeguarding of, relief association assets.

MOUNTVILLE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Recommendation: We again recommend that the relief association officials maintain a complete and accurate cumulative equipment roster that includes only relief association equipment. Furthermore, the relief association should ensure an annual physical inventory of all relief association purchased equipment is performed and documented. For further guidance, please refer to the Auditor General's publication, MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

Management Response: Relief association management agreed with the finding as presented at the audit exit conference and indicated they will ensure the equipment roster includes appropriate documentation and excludes affiliated fire company owned equipment.

Auditor's Conclusion: We are concerned by the relief association's failure to correct this previously reported audit finding and strongly encourage timely implementation of the recommendation noted in this audit report.

MOUNTVILLE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mountville Fire Company No. 1 Firemen's Relief Association Governing Body:

Mr. Richard Delgiorno
President

Mr. Brandon S. Rennix
Vice President

Ms. Rebecca L. Saylor
Secretary

Mr. Joseph S. Iacono
Treasurer/Trustee

Mr. Dean R. Grantz, Jr.
Trustee

Mr. Michael P. Rossi
Trustee

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

Mr. Derrick Millhouse
Secretary
Mountville Borough

Mr. Andrew Stern
Secretary
West Hempfield Township

MOUNTVILLE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

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.