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# Report to the Board of Directors, 2005

West County EMS and Fire Protection District

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MAY 6 3 2006

# WEST COUNTY EMS AND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

#### REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 31, 2005

# SCHOWALTER & JABOURI, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS 11878 GRAVOIS ROAD ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63127 (314) 849-4999 FAX (314) 849-3486

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPUTER SOLUTIONS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

11777 GRAVOIS ROAD ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63127 (314) 842-2929 FAX (314) 842-3483

To the Members of the Board of Directors West County EMS and Fire Protection District

#### Dear Members of the Board:

We have audited the financial statements of West County EMS and Fire Protection District (the "District") for the year ended December 31, 2005 and have issued our report thereon dated March 10, 2006. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility Under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter dated October 21, 2005, our responsibility as described by professional standards is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and are fairly presented in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance and because we did not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us.

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the District. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the District's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions.

#### Significant Accounting Policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of

### Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

existing policies was not changed during 2005. We noted no transactions entered into by the District during the year that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards, we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

#### Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management records general capital assets on the government-wide statement of net assets according to the District's Capital Asset policy as described in Note 1.G to the financial statements.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates above in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statement taken as a whole.

#### Audit Adjustments

For the purpose of this letter, professional standards define an audit adjustment as a proposed correction of the financial statements that, in our judgment, may not have been detected except through our auditing procedures. An audit adjustment may or may not indicate matters that could have a significant effect on the District's financial reporting process (that is, cause future financial statements to be materially misstated). In our judgment, none of the adjustments we proposed, whether recorded or unrecorded by the District, either individually or in the aggregate, indicate matters that could have a significant effect on the District's financial reporting process.

# Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

#### Issues Discussed Prior to Retention of Independent Auditors

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

#### Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing our audit.

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This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of West County EMS and Fire Protection District and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

SCHOWALTER & JABOURI, P.C.

St. Louis, Missouri March 10, 2006