

County Audit

**Southwest Oklahoma
Ambulance Authority
Financial Statements**



For The Year Ended June 30, 2006



Office of the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector
Jeff A. McMahan, CFE

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

July 30, 2007

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY

Transmitted herewith is the audit of the Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority's financial statement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. The audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

A report of this type is critical in nature; however, we do not intend to imply that our audit failed to disclose commendable features in the present accounting and operating procedures of the Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation extended to our office during the course of our audit.

The Office of the State Auditor and Inspector is committed to serving the public interest by providing independent oversight and by issuing reports that serve as a management tool to the state to ensure a government which is accountable to the people of the State of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff A. McMahan".

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
JUNE 30, 2006

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**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JUNE 30, 2006**

CHAIRMAN

Robert Messenger

VICE CHAIRMAN

Bobby Jefferson

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Charles Paxton

MEMBERS

Lloyd Colson
Jimmy Wright

ADMINISTRATOR

Shelia Lewis

INTRODUCTION

Article 10, § 9C of the Oklahoma Constitution authorized the formation of emergency medical service districts and authorized a tax levy not to exceed 3 mills for the purpose of providing funds to support, organize, operate, and maintain district ambulance service. District voters approved the formation of the Authority and 3 mills levy to support the operation of the Authority. The Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority is comprised of Harmon County and was created to provide ambulance service to all citizens.

Emergency medical service districts are governed by a board of trustees. The board of trustees (the board) has the power to hire a manager and other personnel, contract, organize, maintain, or otherwise operate the emergency medical service district. The trustees must act as a board when entering into contracts or other agreements affecting the district's welfare. Thus, actions taken by the board are voted on and approved by a majority of the trustees. The board of trustees' business meetings are open to the public. The board shall have the capacity to sue and be sued but shall enjoy immunity from civil suits for actions or omissions arising from the operation of the district. Such districts have the authority to charge fees for services, and accept gifts, funds, or grants.

The Oklahoma Constitution also provides that the district shall be audited by the State Auditor and Inspector.

FINANCIAL SECTION



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

Independent Auditor's Report

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances—General Fund of Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2006, listed in the table of contents as the basic financial statement. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the accompanying basic financial statement was prepared using accounting practices prescribed or permitted by Oklahoma state law, which practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

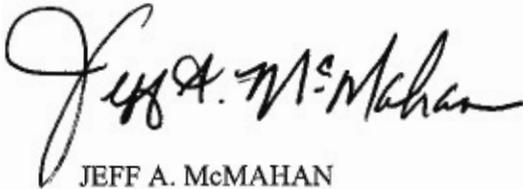
In our opinion, because of the matter discussed in the preceding paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority as of June 30, 2006, or changes in its financial position for the year then ended.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and changes in cash balances of the Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority, for the year ended June 30, 2006, on the basis of accounting described in Note. 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 4, 2007, on our consideration of Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over

financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances—General Fund of Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority, taken as a whole. The accompanying Comparative Schedule of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in Cash Balances—Budget and Actual—Budgetary Basis—General Fund is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statement. The Comparative Schedule of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in Cash Balances—Budget and Actual—Budgetary Basis—General Fund has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statement and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statement taken as a whole.



JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

June 4, 2007

Basic Financial Statement

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**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES—GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

| | General Fund |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Cash Balance | <u>\$ 76,251</u> |
| Receipts: | |
| Ad Valorem Taxes | 54,156 |
| Charges for Services | 103,254 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>7,445</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>164,855</u> |
| Disbursements: | |
| Checks Issued | <u>122,746</u> |
| Total Disbursements | <u>122,746</u> |
| Ending Cash Balance | <u>\$ 118,360</u> |

The notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this statement.

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying basic financial statement presents the receipts, disbursements, and changes in cash balances of Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority (the Authority). The financial activity presented is established under statutory authority, and its operation is under the control of the Board of Trustees. The more significant accounting policies and practices are described below.

A. Reporting Entity

The Authority is a special unit of government and does not possess political or governmental powers other than those necessary to carry out the specific purposes for which it was created. The Authority is not subject to federal or state income taxes.

The accompanying basic financial statement includes all Authority functions and activities over which the Authority Board exercises significant influence. Significant influence or accountability is based primarily on the oversight exercised by the Authority Board. The Authority is not a component unit of another government and does not have any component units.

B. Fund Accounting

The Authority uses only a general fund to account for its cash balances.

C. Basis of Accounting

The basic financial statement is prepared on a basis of accounting wherein amounts are recognized when received or disbursed. This basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which require revenues to be recognized when they become available and measurable or when they are earned, and expenditures or expenses to be recognized when the related liabilities are incurred. This cash basis financial presentation is not a comprehensive measure of economic condition or changes therein.

D. Cash and Investments

State statutes require financial institutions with which the Authority maintains funds to deposit collateral securities to secure the Authority's deposits. The amount of collateral securities to be pledged is established by the Authority Treasurer; this amount must be at least the amount of the deposit to be secured, less the amount insured (by, for example, the FDIC).

State statutes authorize the Authority to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, certificates of deposit, or savings accounts of banks, savings and loans, and trust companies if secured by acceptable collateral where the collateral has been deposited with a trustee or custodian bank.

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

E. Risk Management

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to: torts, theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to personnel and natural disasters. The Authority continues to carry commercial insurance for these types of risk. The Authority carries workers' compensation and accidental insurance. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the Authority. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the 2006 fiscal year.

F. Compensated Absences

The Authority does not accrue any liability for future vacation benefits. Vacation benefits are earned by the employee during the year and may be accumulated up to 20 days. In management's opinion, the amount of accumulated unpaid vacation benefits is not material to the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

2. Stewardship Policies

On or before June 1 of each year, a budget for each fund, as required by the Board, is completed. The budget is approved by fund and object. The Authority Board may approve changes of appropriations within the fund by object. To increase or decrease the budget by fund requires approval by the Excise Board.

Cash disbursements of the Authority are presented only in total in the *Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances – General Fund*; however, a breakdown of disbursements by category is included in the *Comparative Schedule of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in Cash Balances – Budget and Actual – Budgetary Basis – General Fund* of the supplementary information along with a reconciliation of actual cash activity to budgetary cash activity.

3. Detailed Notes on Fund Balances

A. Ad Valorem Tax

The property tax is levied each October 1 on the assessed value listed as of January 1 of the same year for all real and personal property located in the District, except certain exempt property. Assessed values are established by the County Assessor within the prescribed guidelines established by the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the State Equalization Board. The tax is collected by the County Treasurer and remitted to the Authority.

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

The assessed property value as of January 2005 was approximately \$18,456,541 after deducting homestead exemptions.

Taxes are due on November 1 following the levy date, although they may be paid in two equal installments. If the first half is paid prior to January 1, the second half is not delinquent until April 1.

Unpaid delinquent personal property taxes are published usually in May. If the taxes are not paid within 30 days from publication, they are placed on the personal tax lien docket.

Current year tax collections for the year ended June 30, 2006, were approximately 96 percent of the tax levy.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES—
BUDGET AND ACTUAL—BUDGETARY BASIS—GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

| | General Fund | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Original | Final | Actual | Variance |
| | Budget | Budget | | |
| Beginning Cash Balances | \$ 76,251 | \$ 76,251 | \$ 76,251 | \$ - |
| Less: Beginning Outstanding Warrants | (593) | (593) | (593) | |
| Beginning Cash Balances, Budgetary Basis | <u>75,658</u> | <u>75,658</u> | <u>75,658</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Ad Valorem Taxes | 50,336 | 50,336 | 54,156 | 3,820 |
| Charges for Services | 58,408 | 58,408 | 103,254 | 44,846 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | 4,312 | 4,312 | 7,445 | 3,133 |
| Total Receipts, Budgetary Basis | <u>113,056</u> | <u>113,056</u> | <u>164,855</u> | <u>51,799</u> |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| Personal Services | 90,000 | 90,000 | 80,294 | 9,706 |
| Maintenance and Operations | 93,714 | 93,714 | 38,979 | 54,735 |
| Capital Outlay | 5,000 | 5,000 | 3,028 | 1,972 |
| Total Expenditures, Budgetary Basis | <u>188,714</u> | <u>188,714</u> | <u>122,301</u> | <u>66,413</u> |
| Excess of Receipts and Beginning Cash Balances Over Expenditures, Budgetary Basis | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ -</u> | 118,212 | <u>\$ 118,212</u> |
| Reconciliation to Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances | | | | |
| Add: Ending Outstanding Warrants | | | 148 | |
| Ending Cash Balance | | | <u>\$ 118,360</u> | |

See independent auditor's report.

The accompanying notes to the supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

Oklahoma Statutes require the Authority to prepare a formal budget for the general fund and other funds as the Board of Trustees may require. The budget presented for the general fund includes the originally approved budgeted appropriations for expenditures and final budgeted appropriations as adjusted for supplemental appropriations and approved transfers between budget categories.

The Comparative Schedule of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in Cash Balances—Budget and Actual—Budgetary Basis—General Fund presents comparisons of the legally adopted budget with actual data. The "actual" data, as presented in the comparison of budget and actual, will differ from the data as presented in the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances because of adopting certain aspects of the budgetary basis of accounting and the adjusting of encumbrances and outstanding warrants to their related budget year.

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and
Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With
*Government Auditing Standards***

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY

We have audited the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances—General Fund of Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2006, which comprises the Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority's basic financial statement, prepared using accounting practices prescribed or permitted by Oklahoma state law, and have issued our report thereon dated June 4, 2007. The report on the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances was adverse because the statement is not a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

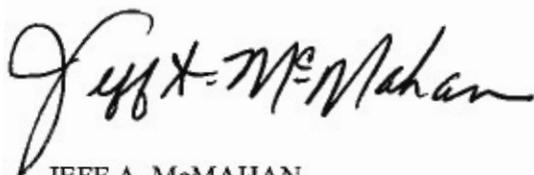
In planning and performing our audit, we considered Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Authority's ability to initiate, record, process, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 1996-1.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the reportable condition described above to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Southwest Oklahoma Ambulance Authority's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 2005-1 and 2005-2.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees, Excise Board, and Legislative officials and should not be used for any other purpose. This report is also a public document pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act (51 O.S., section 24A.1 et seq.), and shall be open to any person for inspection and copying.



JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

June 4, 2007

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

Findings related to the Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

Finding 1996-1 - Segregation of Duties (Repeat Finding)

Criteria: Segregation of duties over asset custody, transaction authorization, bookkeeping, and reconciliation is an important element of effective internal control over public assets and resources.

Condition: The lack of personnel prevents a proper segregation of accounting functions with regard to the collection of funds, deposit of funds, and reconciliation of records.

Effect: This condition could result in unrecorded transactions, misstated financial reports, undetected errors, or misappropriation of assets.

Recommendation: We recommend management be aware of this condition and realize the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desired from a control point of view.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: We do not have enough full-time employees to segregate the accounting functions of the service and the Board is aware of this problem. The Director makes out the deposits and another employee takes the deposit to the bank. The accountant issues all checks. The Director of the service oversees all other accounting functions.

SA&I response: Under these conditions, the most effective controls lie in management's knowledge of office operations and the periodic review of operations.

Finding 2005-1 – Fixed Assets (Repeat Finding)

Criteria: Title 19 O.S. § 1718 states, "A district shall maintain, according to its own accounting needs some or all of the funds and account groups in its system of accounts that are consistent with legal and operating requirements and as prescribed by the State Auditor and Inspector. The required funds may include, but not be limited to . . .

5. A ledger or group of accounts in which to record the details relating to the general fixed assets of the district."

Condition: The Authority did not maintain a ledger of accounts to record the detailed items of fixed assets.

Effect: This condition could result in misappropriation of assets.

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

Recommendation: We recommend a control total of all Authority owned assets (such as equipment, land, buildings, and improvements) be compiled and maintained by the Authority.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: We concur with the State Auditor's finding and will implement policy and procedures to include fixed assets information.

Finding 2005-2 - Audit Budget (Repeat Finding)

Criteria: Title 19 O.S. §1706.1 states, "The net proceeds of the one-tenth mill annual ad valorem levy upon the net total assessed valuation...shall be authorized and mandatorily required to be appropriated and dedicated to emergency medical service district audit..."

The one-tenth mill is cumulative. Any appropriation balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year must be added to the one-tenth mill for the following year and included in the following year's budgeted audit account. Only the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector can release unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining in the budgeted audit account.

Condition: The Authority did not establish a mandatory audit account in the Estimate of Needs.

Effect: This condition could result in misstated financial reports.

Recommendation: We recommend the Authority establish an audit account and apportion the net proceeds of the one-tenth annual mill ad valorem levy.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: We concur with the State Auditor's finding and will establish a mandatory audit account in the Estimate of Needs.