

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

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## York Area United Fire and Rescue Administrative Defined Contribution Pension Plan York County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018

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February 2020



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

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York Area United Fire and Rescue  
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We have conducted a compliance audit of the York Area United Fire and Rescue Administrative Defined Contribution Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with the standards applicable to performance 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 sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objective identified above. To determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, our methodology included the following:

- We determined whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the annual deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt for all years within the period under audit. State aid allocations that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2013 to December 31, 2018, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.

- We determined whether annual employer contributions were calculated and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by examining the municipality's calculation of the plan's annual financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation (MMO) and comparing these calculated amounts to amounts actually budgeted and deposited into the pension plan as evidenced by supporting documentation. Employer contributions that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2013 to December 31, 2018, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions
- We determined whether annual employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by testing total members' contributions on an annual basis using the rates obtained from the plan's governing document in effect for all years within the period under audit and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan. We also tested individual employee contributions for all nine active employees employed during the audit period amounting to \$7,444, \$7,959, \$7,863 and \$9,961, for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively, made during the audit period.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for the plan member who retired and elected a lump-sum form of pension benefit during the current audit period represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and were properly determined and disbursed in accordance with the plan's governing document, applicable laws and regulations by comparing the distributed amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to recipients.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2017 actuarial valuation report were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2016 and 2018, respectively, in accordance with Act 205 and whether selected information provided on these reports is accurate, complete, and in accordance with plan provisions to ensure compliance for participation in the state aid program by comparing selected information to supporting source documentation.

York Area United Fire and Rescue contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements, which are available at the commission's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Commission officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the York Area United Fire and Rescue Administrative Defined Contribution Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of the commission's internal controls as they relate to the commission's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within

the context of our audit objective, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally and as previously described, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures, and interviewed selected officials to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance with legal and regulatory requirements or noncompliance with provisions of contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies that are significant within the context of the audit objective.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the York Area United Fire and Rescue Administrative Defined Contribution Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of York Area United Fire and Rescue and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank commission officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

January 27, 2020



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

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## **BACKGROUND**

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). The Act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state aid to Pennsylvania's public pension plans. Section 402(j) of Act 205 specifically requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to make an audit of every municipality which receives general municipal pension system state aid and of every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system state aid is deposited.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a 2 percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) fire insurance tax designated for paid firefighters and any investment income earned on the collection of these taxes. Generally, municipal pension plans established prior to December 18, 1984, are eligible for state aid. For municipal pension plans established after that date, the sponsoring municipality must fund the plan for three plan years before it becomes eligible for state aid. In accordance with Act 205, a municipality's annual state aid allocation cannot exceed its actual pension costs.

In addition to Act 205, the York Area United Fire and Rescue Administrative Defined Contribution Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the former Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Administrative Defined Contribution Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution 2008-10, as amended. The plan was established June 26, 2008 for all administrative employees of the York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission. Active members are required to contribute 2 percent of yearly earnings to the plan. The commission was required to contribute 9 percent of yearly earnings in 2015, and 10 percent of yearly earnings in 2016, 2017, and 2018. As of December 31, 2018, the plan had 8 active members and 1 retiree receiving pension benefits.

YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE ADMINISTRATIVE DEFINED  
 CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLAN  
 SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2013	\$ 25,658	\$ 6,167
2014	27,433	5,064
2015	28,312	5,184
2016	35,447	4,349
2017	None	39,314
2018	None	49,804

YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE ADMINISTRATIVE DEFINED  
CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

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