



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Renton Regional Fire Authority

For the period July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017

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**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

January 31, 2019

Governance Board
Renton Regional Fire Authority
Renton, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Authority operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our independent audit report on the Authority's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audit Results.....	4
Related Reports	5
Information about the Authority	6
About the State Auditor's Office	7

AUDIT RESULTS

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Authority operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of Renton Regional Fire Authority from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Authority's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, based on our risk assessment for the year ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Interlocal agreements – King County Fire Protection Authority No. 40
- Fire benefit charge – calculation
- Formation of Renton Regional Fire Authority
- Self-insurance – unemployment compensation
- Intergovernmental loan – creating Renton Regional Fire Authority

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the Authority's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Authority's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORITY

Renton Regional Fire Authority was created on July 1, 2016 by voter approval. The Authority is a special purpose authority established to provide critical fire and life safety services to the residents of the City of Renton and King County Fire Protection District No. 25. The Authority also contracts with King County Fire Protection District No. 40 to provide services to that area. In addition to responding to and controlling all types of fires, the Authority responds to other emergency incidents including natural disasters, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, and medical and property services calls. This is the first audit of the Authority.

A six-member Governance Board oversees the Authority. The Board is comprised of six voting board members and one non-voting member. The voting board members include three council members from the City of Renton and three commissioners from King County Fire Protection District No. 25. One commissioner representing King County Fire Protection District No. 40 serves as a non-voting board member. The Board appoints a Fire Chief to oversee the Authority's daily operations as well as its 168 employees. For 2017, the Authority operated on an annual operating budget of \$28.2 million.

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for Renton Regional Fire Authority at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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