

SINGLE AUDIT REPORTS

WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS

**For the Year Ended
December 31, 2023**

WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS

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December 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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 Honorable County Judge and
Members of the Commissioners' Court of
Wharton County, Texas

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Wharton County, Texas (the "County"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 30, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

(Continued)

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the County's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crowe LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Crowe LLP

Houston, Texas
July 30, 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE, AND THE
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

To the Honorable County Judge and
Members of the Commissioners' Court
of Wharton County, Texas

Report on Compliance for Major Federal Program

Opinion on Major Federal Program

We have audited Wharton County, Texas's (the "County") compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the County's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023. The County's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the County's federal programs.

(Continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the County's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the County's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the County's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that have not been identified.

(Continued)

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. We have issued our report thereon dated July 30, 2024 which contained unmodified opinions on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.


Crowe LLP

Houston, Texas
July 30, 2024

WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

A. SUMMARY OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS

None noted.

WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

I. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

What were the results of the auditor's determination of whether the financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles?	Unmodified
Is a 'going concern' emphasis-of-matter paragraph included in the auditor's report?	No
Is a significant deficiency in internal control disclosed?	No
Is a material weakness in internal control disclosed?	No
Is material noncompliance disclosed?	No

Federal Programs

Type of audit report issued on compliance for each major program	Unmodified
Is a significant deficiency in internal control over major programs disclosed?	No
Is a material weakness in internal control over major programs disclosed?	No
Does the auditor's report include a statement that the financial statements include departments, agencies, or other organizational units expending federal awards which are not included in this audit?	No
What is the dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs?	\$750,000
Did the auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	No
Did the audit disclose any audit findings that the auditor is required to report under Uniform Guidance 2 CFR §200.516 Audit Findings paragraph (a)?	No

Major Program Information and Audit Findings

Identification of major programs:

<u>Assistance Listing (AL) Numbers</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u>	<u>Number of Audit Findings</u>
21.027	American Rescue Plan - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	0

II. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None identified.

III. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None identified.

WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

<u>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title</u>	<u>Pass-through Entity Identifying Number</u>	<u>Federal AL Number</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY			
<i>Direct Award:</i>			
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	N/A	21.027	\$ 3,739,140
	Total U.S. Department of Treasury		<u>3,739,140</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE			
<i>Pass-Through Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division</i>			
Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program	4315703	16.575	15,823
<i>Direct Award:</i>			
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	N/A	16.607	13,467
	Total U.S. Department of Justice		<u>29,290</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT			
<i>Pass-Through Texas General Land Office</i>			
Texas Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Projects Non-Research and Development	20-065-107-C294	14.228	142,904
Texas Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Local Buyout/Acquisition Projects	20-066-009-C052	14.228	410,178
	Total U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development		<u>553,082</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY			
<i>Pass-Through Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grants Division</i>			
End of Life Replacement Radios	4253502	97.067	146,615
Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG)	3930904	97.067	52,784
	Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security		<u>199,399</u>
	Total Federal Expenditures		<u>\$ 4,520,911</u>

See accompanying notes to schedules of expenditures of Federal awards.

WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. REPORTING ENTITY

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the “Schedule”) presents the activity of all federal financial assistance programs of Wharton County, Texas (the “County”).

2. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Therefore, some amounts presented in this Schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of, the basic financial statements.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. These expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Negative amounts shown on the Schedule, if any, represent, adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years.

4. INDIRECT COST RATE

The County has elected not to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.