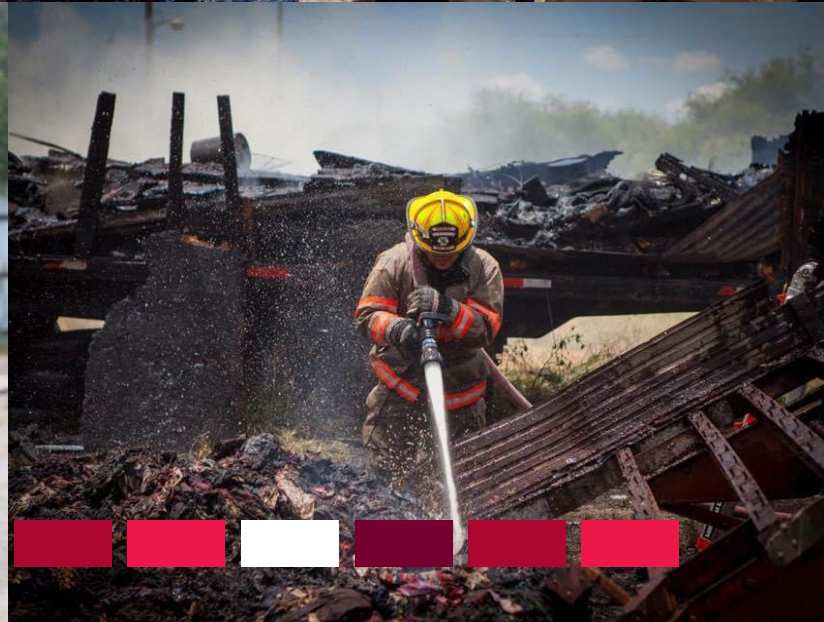




Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund a Fiduciary Fund of the City of McAllen, Texas

Financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information
and Independent Auditor's Report

September 30, 2023





Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund of McAllen, Texas

September 30, 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Pension Board of Trustees of the
Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund
City of McAllen, Texas

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund of the City of McAllen, Texas (the Plan), a fiduciary fund of the City of McAllen, which comprise the statement of fiduciary net position as of September 30, 2023, and the related statement of changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund of the City of McAllen, Texas as of September 30, 2023, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Fund Financial Statements

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Plan, a fiduciary fund of the City of McAllen, Texas (the City) and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the City as of September 30, 2023, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Plan's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

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Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund
City of McAllen, Texas

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. 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 GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, 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 amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.



The Pension Board of Trustees of the
Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund
City of McAllen, Texas

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Schedules of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios, Schedule of Investment Returns, Schedule of Contributions and Notes to Required Supplementary Information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 16, 2024 on our consideration of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements 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 effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Plan's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

Austin, Texas
May 16, 2024



MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The following is management's discussion and analysis of the financial performance of the Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund the ("Plan") of McAllen, Texas. It is presented as a narrative overview and analysis for the purpose of assisting the reader with interpreting key elements of the financial statements, notes to the financial statements, and required supplementary information.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management's discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Plan basic financial statements, together with the related notes to the financial statements, required supplementary information, and the supporting schedules, all of which are described below:

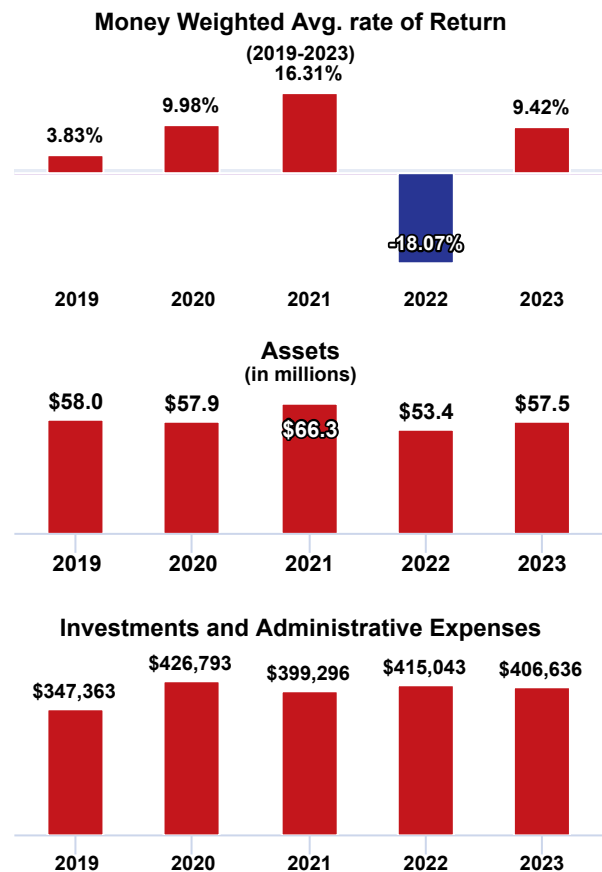
Fund Financial Statements:

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – This statement reports the assets, liabilities, and resultant net position restricted for pension benefits. This statement should be read with the understanding that it discloses the Plan's financial position on September 30, 2023.

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – This statement reports the results of operations during the years, categorically disclosing the additions to and deductions from plan net position. The net increase to plan assets on this statement supports the change in net position restricted for pension benefits on the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position.

Notes to the Financial Statements:

The financial statement notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the date provided in the fund financial statements.



THE PLAN FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The plan provides retirement benefits to essentially all eligible firefighter employees. These benefits are funded through member contributions, employer contributions, and earnings on investments. Total net position held in trust for pension benefits at September 30, 2023 amounted to \$57,588,137.

Additions to Net Position

Additions to the Plan net position held in trust for pension benefits include contributions from members and employer and net investment income. Member contributions totaled \$2,010,356 and employer contributions amounted to \$2,155,354. The Plan recognized a net investment gain of \$4,987,718. This net investment gain was attributable to a combination of the following: a market appreciation of \$3,687,163; interest and dividends of the portfolio in the amount of \$1,659,073; and investment management expenses in the amount of \$358,518.

Additions to Net Position	2023	2022
Member contributions	\$ 2,010,356	\$ 1,894,577
Employer contributions	2,155,354	2,028,406
Net investment income	4,987,718	(11,914,410)
Other	6,393	15,695
Total net (reductions) additions	\$ 9,159,821	\$ (7,975,732)

Deductions From Plan Net Position

Deductions from the Plan net position held in trust for pension benefits are comprised primarily of retirement benefit payments to the Plan retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries. Administrative expenses and refunds of contributions are also included as deductions. For 2023, benefit payments to retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries amounted to \$4,544,181. The administrative expenses amounted to \$48,118; and refunds to terminated employees– \$23,755 and DROP distribution– \$373,836. Five retiree beneficiaries were added during this time period. The combination of these events added a net additional cost to the plan of approximately \$36,692.

Deductions from Net Position	2023	2022
Benefit payments	\$ 4,544,181	\$ 4,313,286
Refund to terminated employees	23,755	79,647
Drop payments	373,836	524,983
Administrative expenses	48,118	32,282
Total deductions	\$ 4,989,890	\$ 4,950,198

Investments

Upon approval by the board of trustees, several realignments in the portfolio were made in accordance with the investment strategy. Total investments, exclusive of cash holdings and accrued interest receivable, amounted to \$55,987,713 at September 30, 2023. The estimated rate of return of the Plan was approximately 7.25% for the current year. The Plan's board of trustees and its consultant remain confident in the long-term potential of the portfolio to deliver upon the desired results of performance in excess of the actuarial requirement with appropriate levels of risk. The approach has served the Plan well historically and the Plan sees no reason to believe it is not attainable going forward.

Investments at Fair Value	2023	2022
Fixed income	\$ 10,835,435	\$ 4,334,676
Domestic and international equities	27,585,904	28,985,696
Alternative investments	17,566,374	18,402,406
Total investments	\$ 55,987,713	\$ 51,722,778

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This Annual Financial Report is designed to provide a general overview of the Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund of McAllen, Texas finances for interested parties. Questions concerning any of the information provided herein, or requests for additional financial information, should be addressed to Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund of McAllen, Texas, P.O. Box 220, McAllen, Texas 78505-0220.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
September 30, 2023**

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,487,953
Investments at fair value	
Fixed income	10,835,435
Domestic and international equities	27,585,904
Alternative investments	<u>17,566,374</u>
Total Investments	<u>55,987,713</u>
Receivables	
Accrued interest receivable	80,463
Other	<u>32,420</u>
Total Assets	<u>57,588,549</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	<u>412</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>412</u>
Net position restricted for pension	<u>\$ 57,588,137</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Year Ended September 30, 2023

Additions	
Contributions:	
Members	\$ 2,010,356
Employer	2,155,354
Other	<u>6,393</u>
Total Contributions	<u>4,172,103</u>
Investment Income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	3,687,163
Interest and dividends	<u>1,659,073</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>5,346,236</u>
Less Investment expense	<u>(358,518)</u>
Net Investment income	<u>4,987,718</u>
Total Additions	<u>9,159,821</u>
Deductions	
Benefits paid directly to participants or beneficiaries	4,544,181
Refunds to terminated employees	23,755
DROP payments	373,836
Administrative expenses	<u>48,118</u>
Total Deductions	<u>4,989,890</u>
Net Increase in Net Position	<u>4,169,931</u>
Net Position Restricted for Pension	
Beginning of year	<u>53,418,206</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 57,588,137</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



1. Plan Description

The provisions of Firemen’s Relief and Retirement Fund of McAllen, Texas (the “Plan”) are authorized by the Texas Local Fire Fighters’ Retirement Act (“TLFFRA”). The following brief description of the Plan is provided for general information purposes only. The Plan agreement should be referred to for more complete information. The Plan has an actuarial valuation performed biennially in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) Statement No. 67, Financial Reporting for Pension Plans – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 25. The most recent actuarial valuation was performed as of September 30, 2022. This valuation was rolled forward to September 30, 2023 in accordance with GASB No. 67.

Reporting Entity

The plan is sponsored by the City of McAllen, Texas (the “City”). The Plan does not purport and does not present the financial position or changes in financial position of the City as of any time or for any period. The Plan meets the criteria of a “fiduciary fund” of the City as established by GASB, and certain information regarding the Plan is included in the City’s financial statements.

Plan Membership

The Pension Board of Trustees are the administrators of the Plan, which consists of seven board members, current and former fire fighters of the City, as well as certain beneficiaries of current and former fire fighters. The City is the only contributing employer. The fire fighters covered by the Plan also contribute to the Plan. The types of employees covered, as well as Plan membership data, are as follows:

Number of participants	
Active members	180
Retirees and beneficiaries entitled to benefits	120
Retirees and beneficiaries entitled to, but not yet receiving benefits	7
Total Participants	307

Plan Benefits

Service Retirement Benefits

A member is eligible for service retirement upon completion of 20 years of service and attainment of age 50. A member who retires under the service retirement provisions of the fund will receive a monthly benefit equal to the sum of (a), (b), and (c) where: (a) equal to 2.9% of the member’s highest 60-month average salary for each of the member’s years of service up to and including the 20th year of service and (b) equals the greater of 2.9% of the member’s highest 60-month average salary, or \$58.00 per month for each of the member’s 21st and 22nd years of service, and (c) equals \$58.00 per month for each year of service in excess of 22 years.

Disability Benefits

An active member who becomes disabled as defined in the plan will receive a monthly disability benefit. Separate disability benefits are provided for duty-related and off-duty disabilities. Disability benefits are payable in the same joint-and-survivor form as service retirement benefits. However, disability benefits stop if the member recovers to the point that he no longer meets the definition of disability under the fund. If the total monthly amount a disabled member receives from (a) the fund, (b) workers compensation, and (c) the City of McAllen, exceeds the member’s monthly rate of pay as of his date of disability, the amount payable from the fund will be reduced so that the member’s benefit from all three sources, combined, does not exceed such rate of pay.

Duty-related death benefits, payable to a member’s spouse for as long as they are living, equal the sum of (a) 38.67% of the member’s highest 60-month average salary, (b) plus two-thirds of any additional service benefit earned by the member as of the date of their death. The death benefit is payable for life, but it ceases upon remarriage. Effective January 1, 2006 the widowed spouse of a member who completed 10 or more years of service prior to their death will have the death benefit payments terminated in the event of remarriage. In addition to the above spousal death benefit, each unmarried child of the member will receive a monthly benefit of 7.73% of the fire fighter’s highest 60-month average salary. Orphan benefits continue until the child reaches age 18. However, benefits will continue until age 22 for a child who is a full-time student. If the member’s spouse dies or

1. Plan Description (continued)

remarries, or if the member has no spouse on the date of their death, each eligible orphan will receive a monthly benefit of 15.47% of the member's highest 60-month average salary. Orphan benefits are continued for life for disabled children. The total of all benefits paid as a result of the death of an active fund member may not exceed the disability or retirement benefits such member had earned as of the date of their death. The total of all benefits paid as a result of the death of a retired member may not exceed the retirement benefit the member was receiving as of the date of their death. Benefits are reduced pro rata, if necessary, in order to satisfy these limitations.

Termination Benefits

Members who terminate employment with less than 10 years of service will be entitled to the return of the excess of their contributions to the fund over the amount of any benefits they have received from the Plan. Such refunds will not include any interest on the members' contributions. If members terminate on or after the date they have completed 10 years of service but prior to the date they complete 20 years of service, they will be entitled to receive a monthly benefit, starting on the date they would have both completed 20 years of service and attained age 50, had they remained in the service of the fire department.

The amount the members will receive will equal the monthly service retirement benefit they had accumulated on the date they separated from service with the fire department, multiplied by the vested percentage of the members.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)

A member is eligible to receive their benefits under the plan's DROP provision after they have both completed 20 years of service and attained age 53. The election to participate in the DROP may be made at the time the member elects to retire. The monthly retirement income payable to a member who retires under the DROP will equal their service retirement benefits under the plan based on highest 60-month average salary and years of service as of the member's DROP Eligibility Date. The member's benefit will be calculated, however using the benefit formula in effect on the member's actual date of retirement. A member's DROP Eligibility Date is the later of (a) the date the member meets the eligibility requirements for the DROP or (b) the date which is two years prior to the member's actual retirement date: Upon retirement, the member will receive—in addition to their monthly retirement benefit—a single payment equal to the sum of: (a) the total of the monthly retirement benefits the member would have received between his DROP Eligibility Date and the time they retired under the plan, and (b) the amount of monthly contributions that the member has made to the fund between their DROP Eligibility Date and the time they retired under the Plan. Since the member does not elect a DROP until actual retirement, Plan does not have any DROP accounts or liabilities reported for DROPS at September 30, 2023.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Plan Asset Matters

Organization

The Plan was created pursuant to the TLFFRA. The Plan provides pension, disability, death, and severance benefits to employees of the City's fire department and former volunteer firemen eligible to receive benefits pursuant to a single-employer defined benefit pension plan.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for local governmental units as prescribed by the GASB. The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Employee and employer contributions are recognized as revenues in the period in which employee services are performed. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of fiduciary net position, short-term, highly liquid investments are considered cash equivalents. Highly liquid investments are defined as investments with a maturity date of three months or less at time of purchase.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Plan Asset Matters (continued)

Valuation of Plan Investments

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's investments are stated at fair value and, accordingly, unrealized appreciation and depreciation are reported in the statement of changes in fiduciary net position. The fair value of money market funds is considered to be the same as the cost of these investments due to their highly liquid nature. The fair value of common stocks and foreign equities are based on quoted market prices. The fair value of United States Government securities and corporate and foreign bonds are based on quotes from broker dealers or are valued using interest rate curves and credit spreads applied to the terms of the debt instrument (maturity and coupon interest rate) and considering the counter party rating. The Plan values investments in alternative funds based on its percentage investment in each such fund and are reported at net asset value (NAV). The estimated fair value of each fund is based on market conditions and information reported by the fund manager, and is generally based on the estimated fair value of each funds' underlying investments at the end of the reporting period.

Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade-date basis and, accordingly, the related receivables and payables for any unsettled trades are recorded. Interest income and dividends are recorded on the accrual basis.

Federal Income Tax

The Plan is exempt from federal income tax pursuant to applicable regulations.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

3. Fiduciary Fund of the City of McAllen, Texas

Due to the level of oversight responsibility exercised, the Plan is included in the City's basic financial statements in the fiduciary fund section. Certain administrative functions are performed for the Plan by the City at no cost. The City is under no legal obligation to fund any unfunded pension obligations related to the Plan, other than to fund the actuarially determined annual required contribution. See note 10 for additional information.

4. Net Pension Liability of the City

Total pension liability is developed by subtracting the present value of future service costs from the present value of future benefits. The net pension liability is calculated by subtracting the plan fiduciary net position from the total pension liability. The components of the net pension liability of the City at September 30, 2023 were as follows:

Total pension liability	\$ 96,939,895
Plan fiduciary net pension	<u>57,588,137</u>
City's net pension liability	<u>\$ 39,351,758</u>
Fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	59.4%

4. Net Pension Liability of the City (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2022 which was rolled forward to the measurement date of September 30, 2023 revised to use a discount rate of 7.25%.

Valuation date	September 30, 2022 , rolled forward to September 30, 2023
Measurement date	September 30, 2023
Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level percentage of payroll, open
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.25% per annum, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Projected salary increases	2.85% plus merit, step and longevity increases that vary by service
Inflation	2.85% per year
Cost-of-living adjustment	None
Mortality	PubS-2010 (public safety) total dataset mortality tables for employees and for retirees (sex distinct), projected for mortality improvement generationally using the projection scale MP-2018.
Other information	There have been no benefit changes since the September 30, 2022 valuation date

The investment rate of return and the projected salary increases both used the same assumptions with regard to inflation. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best estimates of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates or arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Plan’s target allocation as of September 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

Asset class:	Target allocation	Long-term expected real rate of return
Equities		
Domestic all cap	32%	5.55%
International developed	16%	6.05%
Emerging markets	7%	7.37%
Fixed Income		
Global	5%	1.69%
Domestic core	5%	1.43%
Nontraditional	14%	2.50%
Alternatives		
Private real estate	6%	4.25%
Hedge funds	14%	2.75%
Cash	1%	0.00%
Total	100%	
Weighted average		4.40%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.25%. No projection of cash flows was used to determine the discount rate because the September 30, 2022 actuarial valuation revised to reflect the new firefighter and city contribution rates effective October 1, 2020 showed that expected contributions would pay the normal cost and amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) in 35 years. Because of the 35-year amortization period of the UAAL, the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is expected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.25% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments as the discount rate to determine the total pension liability.



4. Net Pension Liability of the City (continued)

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The table below presents the net pension liability of the City calculated using the discount rate of 7.25%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.25%) or one percentage point higher (8.25%).

	One Percent Decrease (6.25%)	Current Discount Rate (7.25%)	One Percent Increase (8.25%)
Net pension liability	\$ 51,630,690	\$ 39,351,758	\$ 29,096,263

Money-weighted rate of return

For the year ended September 30, 2023, the annual money weighted rate of return was calculated at 9.42%. The calculation was determined based on the rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense. Inputs to the money-weighted internal rate of return calculation were determined at least monthly.

5. Benefits

Benefit provisions are established under authority of the TLFRA. Specific plan provisions are governed by a Plan document and a trust agreement executed by the Board of Trustees. The Plan document may be amended as provided in Section 7 of the Texas Fire Fighters’ Retirement Act (Article 6243e. V.T.C.S.). Amending the Plan requires approval of any proposed change by an eligible actuary and a majority of the participating members of the Plan. Both the City and the members of the Plan have specific authority to appoint members of the Board of Trustees under the TLFRA.

6. Contributions

The Plan’s minimum required contribution provisions are established under Title 8, Subtitle A, Chapter 802, Subchapter B, Section 802.101 of the Texas Government Code and under Texas Pension Review Board Guidelines for Actuarial Soundness. Specific Plan contribution rates are governed by the Plan document. Changes in the members’ or the City’s contribution rate requires a plan amendment.

The contribution rates of the Plan members and the City are established under the terms of the Plan. An actuarial valuation is performed biennially to verify that Plan benefits and Plan contributions are in balance. Costs of administering the fund are paid from Plan assets.

Pursuant to the Plan document, a legal instrument binding both the City and its firefighters, the City of McAllen is required to match members’ contributions. Benefits paid to former volunteer firefighters are funded by the City when paid to the former volunteer firefighters or beneficiaries. The City’s contribution rate for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023 was 15.00% of annual compensation and the member contribution rate was 14.00% respectively. Contributions required and paid into the fund as of September 30, 2023 were \$2,010,356 (members) and \$2,155,354 (employer).

7. Deposits with Financial Institutions and Investments

The deposits and investments of the Plan are held separately from those of the City. The TLFRA authorizes the Plan to invest in:

- Obligations and securities of the United States, the state of Texas, or any county, city, or other political subdivision of the state of Texas;
- Savings and loan association accounts insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
- First lien real estate mortgage securities insured by the Federal Housing Administration;
- Corporate bonds and stocks;

7. Deposits with Financial Institutions and Investments (continued)

- Guaranteed investment contracts offered by insurance companies;
- Money market funds;
- Mutual funds and other pooled funds;
- International stocks traded as American Depository Receipts;
- Derivatives; and
- Alternative investments.

Investments

Investments at fair value as of September 30, 2023 are as follows:

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>% of Portfolio</u>	<u>Investment Policy of Asset Allocation</u>
Equities:			
Domestic	\$ 20,169,236	37%	30-60%
International	<u>7,416,668</u>	13%	10-30%
Total equities	<u>27,585,904</u>		
Fixed income:			
Treasury and agency securities, corporate bonds and mutual funds	<u>10,835,435</u>		
Total fixed income	<u>10,835,435</u>	19%	20-50%
Alternative investments	<u>17,566,374</u>	31%	0-30%
Total investment portfolio	<u>\$ 55,987,713</u>	100%	

The Plan categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GASB Statement No. 72, Fair Value Measurement and Application. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs, quoted market prices of similar assets in non-active markets, and inputs other than quoted that are observable either directly or indirectly; Level 3 are significant unobservable inputs and may include situations where there is minimal, if any, market activity.

Debt and equity securities classified in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities.

The Plan uses a matrix pricing model to measure the fair value of its government security investments, classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Commercial real estate securities classified in Level 3 are valued at fair value.



7. Deposits with Financial Institutions and Investments (continued)

Fair Value Measurement

Investments at fair value as of September 30, 2023 using the fair value measurement are as follows:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Total Fair Value</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Equities				
Domestic Equity	\$ 20,169,236	\$ 20,169,236	\$ -	\$ -
International Equity	7,416,668	7,416,668	-	-
Fixed Income				
US Treasury Notes	2,240,188	2,240,188	-	-
Municipal Bonds	23,661	23,661	-	-
Mortgage Backed Securities	1,295,290	-	1,295,290	-
Corporate Bonds	7,276,296	-	7,276,296	-
Total Investments at Fair Value	<u>\$ 38,421,339</u>	<u>\$ 29,849,753</u>	<u>\$ 8,571,586</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Investments measured at the net asset value (NAV)

			<u>Redemption Frequency</u>	<u>Redemption Notice</u>
Alternative Investments				
Terracap V	\$ 3,189,205	-	(1)	(1)
Ironwood	3,396,094	-	Semi-annual	95 days
Terracap	1,327,854	-	(1)	(1)
Corry Capital	1,629,015	-	(2)	(2)
Pointer	2,984,096	-	(3)	(3)
Serenitas	3,463,777	-	(1)	(1)
Ironsides Opportunities Constitution Capital	738,145	1,076,971	(1)	(1)
Ironsides Opportunities Fund II	838,188	2,243,872	(1)	10 days
Collective Investment Funds	-	-	-	-
Total of Investments Measured at NAV	<u>17,566,374</u>			
Total Investments	<u>\$ 55,987,713</u>			

(1) These hedge funds are not redeemable. The Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund receives distributions as the underlying assets of investments are sold/liquidated. Management estimates that the remaining four hedge funds will liquidate in 5-7 years.

(2) The money invested with Corry Capital is locked up because the investment is a private equity style fund. It is a self-liquidating fund that will make distributions when there are realizations.

(3) All capital is subject to an initial 24-month lockup, so the lockup on McAllen Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund's initial investment of \$2.6M made on 4/1/18 expires on 4/1/20. Pointer has semi-annual redemptions at 6/30 and 12/31, where an investor has access to up to 50% of their capital at each date, with signed notification due by 3/15 and 9/15, respectively.

TerraCap Partners V (Institutional), LP

TerraCap Management LLC was founded in 2008 and is an SEC registered investment adviser (2014). TerraCap Partners V, a value-add commercial real estate fund (closed end), seeks to acquire mainstream property types with a focus on the Southern US, particularly Florida, as the population growth is rapid, supply is limited and prices are low. Emphasis is on well-established, well-built properties in strong locations, where the investment manager believes that potential for future competition will be limited and the acquisition price has been well below the cost of replacement. The fair value of the investment has been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

Ironwood International Ltd.

The Fund was created for the purpose of trading and investing in investment funds. The Fund's investment objective is capital appreciation with limited variability of returns. The fund invests substantially all of its assets in Ironwood Partners LP (the Master Fund). The Master Fund invests in a number of pooled investment vehicles, which are each managed by a separate investment manager, and include investment strategies such as relative value, market neutral and low net equity, event-driven, and distressed and credit securities. The fair value of the investment has been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

7. Deposits with Financial Institutions and Investments (continued)

TerraCap Partners III

The Partnership is engaged in the acquisition and resale of value-add investments in real-estate and real-estate backed assets with a focus on opportunities in Florida and the Southeast. The fair value of the investment has been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

CCA Longevity Fund VI, LP (Corry Capital)

The Partnership’s primary investments consist of in-force, non-variable universal life insurance policies insuring the lives of individuals of at least seventy years of age who have a life expectancy as of the date of purchase between two and nine years at a price greater than the cash surrender value offered by the life insurance companies, but less than the face amount of or the death benefit payable under such policies. The fair value of the investment has been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

Pointer Offshore, LTD

The Fund invests all or substantially all of its investable assets in the Master Fund. The Master Fund’s investment objective is trading and investing in securities, private investment companies and other investments. The fair value of the investment has been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

Ironsides Opportunities Annex Fund, L.P.

CCP seeks to generate superior rates of return by making fund and co-investments in premier buyouts. The Ironsides Partnership Fund and the Ironsides Direct Investment Fund focus on middle market buyouts in North America, specifically sector focused funds, secondaries, special situation funds, distressed debt, and emerging managers. Risk is managed through diversification among managers and co-investments as well as industries, managers, vintage years, and investment stage risk. The fair value of the investment has been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

Serenitas Credit Gamma Offshore Fund, Ltd.

Serenitas Credit Gamma Fund seeks a relative value trading strategy focused on mortgage, corporate and synthetic credit, low net exposure to interest rates and credit spreads, and a low negative correlation versus the broader market. The fair value of the investment has been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

Ironsides Opportunities Fund II

Ironsides Opportunities Fund II is a Constitution Capital Partner’s (CCP) fund that aims to take advantage of dislocation in credit. The distressed credit markets provide Constitution Capital Partners with opportunities to acquire debt at discounts due to pressured sellers. The investment team includes both fully dedicated and shared resources with experience investing in secondary market debt purchases and special situations, investing \$1.25 billion across 47 companies.

Interest Rate Risk:		Weighted-Average	
Investment Type	Fair Value	Percentage of Total	Duration (Years)
Corporate bonds	\$ 7,276,296	67.15%	6.87
Treasury Notes	2,240,188	20.67%	5.77
Government Mortgage Back Securities	1,295,290	11.95%	5.65
Municipal Bonds	23,661	0.22%	14.85
Total fixed income investments	\$ 10,835,435	100.00%	5.63



7. Deposits with Financial Institutions and Investments (continued)

Custodial credit risk. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a failure of the counterparty, the Plan will not be able to recover the value of investments or collateral in possession of the counterparty. The Plan does not have a policy regarding custodial credit risk. The Plan does not have any cash deposits held with financial institutions and all investments are held in the name of the Plan.

Credit risk. Using Standard and Poor’s rating system for fixed income securities as of September 30, 2023 the Plan’s fixed income investments were rated as noted below. The investment policy is silent on the subject of credit risk.

Investment Type	Fair Value	AAA, AA, A	BBB, BB, B	Below B, Not Rated
US Treasury Notes	\$ 2,240,188	\$ 2,240,188	\$ -	\$ -
Mortgage Back Securities	1,295,290	1,295,290	-	-
Corporate Bonds	7,276,296	2,987,883	4,003,698	284,715
Municipal Bonds	23,661	23,661	-	-
	<u>\$ 10,835,435</u>	<u>\$ 6,547,022</u>	<u>\$ 4,003,698</u>	<u>\$ 284,715</u>

8. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market rate, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and those changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of fiduciary net position.

Plan contributions are made and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits are reported based on certain assumptions pertaining to interest rates, inflation rates, and employee demographics, all of which are subject to change. Due to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near term would be material to the financial statements.

9. Change in State Oversight Agency

An agency from the State of Texas conducted a sunset review of the Texas Local Fire Fighters’ Retirement agency. After the review, it was determined that this agency should be abolished and its duties were transferred to the Pension Review Board, another state agency. The Pension Review Board agency is currently assessing its additional responsibilities towards the local pension plans, which will now fall under its jurisdiction.

10. Funding Responsibility

In September 2003, Texas voters approved an amendment to the Texas Constitution, which provided that once certain benefits are granted to retirees, those benefits may not be subsequently reduced. It was codified as Article XVI, Section 66, of the Texas Constitution. The amendment applies only to the City of McAllen Firefighters’ Relief and Retirement Plan. It further provided that the City and the retirement system that finance benefits under the retirement system are jointly responsible for ensuring that benefits are not reduced or otherwise impaired, which could potentially require the City to involuntarily increase its funding due to under-performing investments, plan improvements as well as other factors outside the control of the City. The amendment also permitted the City to be exempt from its requirements upon holding an election in which the majority of the votes favored the exemption. On May 15, 2004, a special City election was held, in which the majority of the voters voted in favor of exempting the City of McAllen and the McAllen Firefighters’ Relief and Retirement Plan from the application of this amendment, Article XVI, Section 66 of the Texas Constitution.





**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION**

Schedule of: Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios; Investment Returns

	7.50%	7.50%	5.67%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.25%
Discount Rate	7.50%	7.50%	5.67%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.25%
Annual Increase in Payroll	4.00%	4.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	2.85%
Measurement Date	9/30/2017	9/30/2018	9/30/2019	9/30/2020	9/30/2021	9/30/2022	9/30/2023
Total Pension Liability							
1. a. Service Cost (Pension benefits)	\$ 1,536,125	\$ 1,636,993	\$ 1,612,284	\$ 2,709,877	\$ 1,694,789	\$ 1,741,865	\$ 2,019,606
b. Service Cost (Administrative expenses)	329,653	303,416	347,363	426,793	399,296	415,043	406,636
c. Adjustment For Change in Attribution Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Interest	5,361,757	5,631,214	5,715,164	5,697,831	6,170,518	6,432,009	6,720,076
3. Changes in Benefit Terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Difference Between Expected and Actual Experience	(1,202,731)	-	(6,083,899)	-	(939,637)	-	477,920
5. Changes in Assumptions	-	-	23,055,865	(20,428,073)	-	-	2,524,259
6. Benefit Payments (including refunds of member contributions)	(3,520,297)	(3,898,551)	(3,797,821)	(4,519,133)	(4,763,835)	(4,917,916)	(4,941,772)
7. Net Change In Total Pension Liability	2,504,507	3,673,072	20,848,956	(16,112,705)	2,561,131	3,671,001	7,206,725
8. Total Pension Liability-Beginning of the Year	72,587,208	75,091,715	78,764,787	99,613,743	83,501,038	86,062,169	89,733,170
9. Total Pension Liability-End of the Year	<u>\$ 75,091,715</u>	<u>\$ 78,764,787</u>	<u>\$ 99,613,743</u>	<u>\$ 83,501,038</u>	<u>\$ 86,062,169</u>	<u>\$ 89,733,170</u>	<u>\$ 96,939,895</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position							
10. Contributions - employer	\$ 1,498,194	\$ 1,547,133	\$ 1,625,691	\$ 1,675,942	\$ 1,969,448	\$ 2,028,406	\$ 2,155,354
11. Contributions - members	1,266,209	1,360,361	1,499,435	1,547,867	1,836,219	1,894,577	2,010,356
12. Expected Net Investment Income	5,489,970	4,256,675	2,006,816	5,318,376	9,374,927	(11,898,715)	4,994,111
13. Gain or (Loss) Due to Difference in Projected vs Actual Earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Benefit Payments (including refunds of member contributions)	(3,520,297)	(3,898,550)	(3,797,821)	(4,519,133)	(4,763,835)	(4,917,916)	(4,941,772)
15. Expected Administrative Expenses	(33,822)	(49,519)	(37,403)	(38,950)	(28,852)	(32,282)	(48,118)
16. Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Net Changes in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	4,700,254	3,216,100	1,296,718	3,984,102	8,387,907	(12,925,930)	4,169,931
18. Plan Fiduciary Net Position-Beginning of the Year	44,759,055	49,459,309	52,675,409	53,972,127	57,956,229	66,344,136	53,418,206
Plan Fiduciary Net Position-End of the Year	49,459,309	52,675,409	53,972,127	57,956,229	66,344,136	53,418,206	57,588,137
19. Net Pension Liability-End of the Year (line 9 minus line 18)	<u>\$ 25,632,406</u>	<u>\$ 26,089,378</u>	<u>\$ 45,641,616</u>	<u>\$ 25,544,809</u>	<u>\$ 19,718,033</u>	<u>\$ 36,314,964</u>	<u>\$ 39,351,758</u>
20. Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability-End of the Year	65.87%	66.88%	54.18%	69.41%	77.10%	59.54%	59.42%
21. Covered Payroll	\$ 11,524,569	\$ 11,901,023	\$ 12,505,315	\$ 12,891,862	\$ 13,129,647	\$ 13,522,707	\$ 14,369,027
22. Net Pension Liability-End of the Year as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	222.42%	219.22%	364.98%	198.15%	150.17%	268.54%	273.86%
23. Annual Money-weighted Rate of Return Net of Pension Plan	12.37%	8.70%	3.84%	9.98%	16.31%	-18.07%	9.42%

Note 1: In accordance with Paragraph 50 GASB Statement No. 67, this schedule only includes information which has been measured in conformity with Statement No. 67. Disclosures for years in which information was not developed in accordance with GASB 67 Statement have not been included.

Note 2: The Plan adjusted the Total Pension Liability for the estimated effect of a reduction in attribution period for employees expected to elect a BackDrop. The estimated effect is accounted for under item 1.c. above.

Schedule of Contributions

Fiscal Year	(1) Actuarial determined contribution	(2) Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	(3) Contribution excess (deficiency) (2) - (1)	(4) Covered payroll	(5) Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll (2)/(4)
2014	1,435,293	1,435,293	-	11,043,509	13.00%
2016	1,477,483	1,477,483	-	11,365,262	13.00%
2016	1,554,567	1,554,567	-	11,515,311	13.50%
2017	1,498,194	1,498,194	-	11,524,569	13.00%
2018	1,547,133	1,547,133	-	11,901,023	13.00%
2019	1,625,691	1,625,691	-	12,505,315	13.00%
2020	1,675,942	1,675,942	-	12,891,862	13.00%
2021	1,969,448	1,969,448	-	13,129,647	15.00%
2022	2,028,406	2,028,406	-	13,522,707	15.00%
2023	2,155,354	2,155,354	-	14,369,027	15.00%

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2022 which was rolled forward to the measurement date of September 30, 2023 revised to use a discount rate of 7.25%

Valuation date	September 30, 2022 , rolled forward to September 30, 2023
Measurement date	September 30, 2023
Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level percentage of payroll, open
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.25% per annum, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Projected salary increases	2.85% plus merit, step and longevity increases that vary by service
Inflation	2.85% per year
Cost-of-living adjustment	None
Mortality	PubS-2010 (public safety) total dataset mortality tables for employees and for retirees (sex distinct), projected for mortality improvement generationally using the projection scale MP-2018.
Other information	There have been no benefit changes since the September 30, 2022 valuation date



GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS





**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 Pension Board of Trustees of the
Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund
City of McAllen, Texas

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund (the Plan), a fiduciary fund of the City of McAllen, Texas (the City) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Plan's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 16, 2024. The financial statements present only the financial position of the Plan, a fiduciary fund of the City, and do not purport to, and do not, present the financial position of the City, as of September 30, 2023, and the changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Plan's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine 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 internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan'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 Plan'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 the Plan's internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Plan'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 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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The Pension Board of Trustees of the
Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund
City of McAllen, Texas

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 Plan'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 Plan's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

Austin, Texas
May 16, 2024



City of McAllen

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September 30, 2023

