

Knox County Utility Commission
Artemus, Kentucky

Independent Auditors' Report
And Financial Statements
For the Years Ended
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Knox County Utility Commission
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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Commissioners
Knox County Utility Commission
Artemus, Kentucky

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Knox County Utility Commission, which comprise the statements of net position as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Knox County Utility Commission's basic financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Knox County Utility Commission, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Knox County Utility Commission and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the 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 audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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 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 Knox County Utility Commission'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.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' 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 generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* 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 generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Knox County Utility Commission'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 Knox County Utility Commission'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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Schedule of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, the Schedule of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability, the Schedule of the Commission's Pension Contributions, and the Schedule of the Commission's OPEB Contributions on pages 36-39 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, 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.

Management has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements. The accompanying departmental statements for the water and sewer departments are presented separately for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The accompanying departmental statements for the water and sewer departments are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic 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 information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 20, 2025 on our consideration of Knox County Utility Commission'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 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 Knox County Utility Commission's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Abner & Cox, PLLC

Abner & Cox, PLLC
London, Kentucky

March 20, 2025

Knox County Utility Commission
Statements of Net Position
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 491,727	\$ 564,653
Receivables, less allowance	138,696	126,955
Unbilled accounts receivable	112,627	113,949
Inventories	70,381	84,396
Other current assets	3,803	4,900
Total Current Assets	<u>817,234</u>	<u>894,853</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Restricted Assets		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	54,909	57,062
Total Restricted Assets	<u>54,909</u>	<u>57,062</u>
Capital Assets		
Land and improvements	44,619	44,619
Structures and improvements	622,447	571,133
Pumping equipment	352,442	344,410
Meters and meter installation	1,460,037	1,408,994
Hydrants	53,816	53,816
Storage tanks	1,148,102	1,148,102
Transmission and distribution plant	12,643,639	10,554,219
Vehicles and other equipment	654,150	638,922
Office equipment	79,831	79,831
Lift stations	344,195	344,195
Construction in progress	-	1,738,739
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,418,279)</u>	<u>(8,148,728)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>8,984,998</u>	<u>8,778,251</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>9,039,907</u>	<u>8,835,313</u>
Total Assets	<u>9,857,141</u>	<u>9,730,166</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Bond issue costs, net of amortization	40,338	46,465
Differences between expected and actual experience related to pensions	35,491	42,654
Differences between expected and actual experience related to OPEB	11,778	12,359
Changes of assumptions related to OPEB	19,237	34,887
Changes in proportion and differences between employer pension contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	23,468
Changes in proportion and differences between employer OPEB contributions and proportionate share of contributions	7,973	15,746
Pension contributions subsequent to measurement date	46,102	45,990
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>160,919</u>	<u>221,569</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Knox County Utility Commission
Statements of Net Position (Continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 105,000	\$ 100,000
Accounts payable	37,322	47,956
Accrued interest payable	47	47
Accrued salaries and taxes payable	103,764	103,814
Other current liabilities	54,222	45,729
Total Current Liabilities	<u>300,355</u>	<u>297,546</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Customer deposits	55,817	54,867
Net pension liability	733,260	823,944
Net OPEB liability (asset)	21,230	(17,728)
Long-term debt, less current portion	2,894,612	2,650,255
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>3,704,919</u>	<u>3,511,338</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,005,274</u>	<u>3,808,884</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Differences between expected and actual experience related to pensions	-	2,239
Differences between expected and actual experience related to OPEB	167,037	251,717
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	47,145	11,239
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	19,373	4,114
Changes of assumptions related to pensions	33,219	75,515
Changes of assumptions related to OPEB	14,980	24,313
Changes in proportion and differences between employer pension contributions and proportionate share of contributions	47,833	47,732
Changes in proportion and differences between employer OPEB contributions and proportionate share of contributions	25,493	26,582
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>355,080</u>	<u>443,451</u>
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	5,985,386	6,027,996
Restricted	54,909	57,062
Unrestricted	(340,128)	(421,179)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 5,700,167</u>	<u>\$ 5,663,878</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Revenues		
Water sales	\$ 1,551,742	\$ 1,538,703
Sewer sales	34,624	20,517
Service charges	13,084	14,370
Tap fees	23,616	19,358
Penalties	37,815	37,723
Other revenues	57,687	22,952
Total Operating Revenues	<u>1,718,568</u>	<u>1,653,623</u>
Operating Expenses		
Salaries and wages	386,534	404,647
Employee benefits	121,940	191,738
Purchased power	392,411	254,390
Utilities	55,188	71,228
Chemicals	34,282	71,740
Repairs and maintenance	81,251	67,101
Contracted services	28,912	30,839
Vehicle and equipment expenses	25,786	30,507
Insurance	40,431	45,095
Sewer treatment	23,800	12,696
Amortization	3,064	6,128
Depreciation	268,619	265,294
Bad debt expense, net of recoveries	21,968	19,792
Other operating expenses	137,255	93,493
Total Operating Expenses	<u>1,621,441</u>	<u>1,564,688</u>
Operating Income	<u>97,127</u>	<u>88,935</u>
Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)		
Interest income	2,045	2,467
Federal and state grants	-	675,048
Interest expense	(62,883)	(62,447)
Insurance reimbursement	-	16,767
Total Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(60,838)</u>	<u>631,835</u>
Change in Net Position	36,289	720,770
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>5,663,878</u>	<u>4,943,110</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u><u>5,700,167</u></u>	<u><u>5,663,878</u></u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Statements of Cash Flows
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	\$ 1,716,479	\$ 1,632,808
Payments to employees	(497,921)	(660,939)
Payments to suppliers	(1,005,855)	(739,483)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>212,703</u>	<u>232,386</u>
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(476,302)	(1,950,370)
Insurance Reimbursements	-	18,603
Principal payments on debt	(100,000)	(95,000)
Interest payments on debt	(62,883)	(60,250)
Proceeds from debt	349,357	1,045,255
Federal, state and local grants	0	675,048
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(289,828)</u>	<u>(366,714)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Interest on cash and investments	2,046	2,465
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	<u>2,046</u>	<u>2,465</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(75,079)	(131,863)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>621,715</u>	<u>753,578</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 546,636</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 621,715</u></u>
Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 491,727	\$ 564,653
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	54,909	57,062
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 546,636</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 621,715</u></u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Statements of Cash Flows (Continued)
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash		
Provided by Operating Activities:		
Operating income	\$ 97,127	\$ 88,934
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	268,619	265,294
Amortization	3,064	6,128
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	(11,946)	(17,652)
Unbilled accounts receivable	1,322	5,975
Inventory	(14,015)	(20,106)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(1,097)	(574)
Deferred pension & OPEB costs	(19,201)	349,213
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	10,400	(21,792)
Customer deposits	42	(1,007)
Accrued expenses	(50)	6,062
Other current liabilities	8,493	236
Net pension & OPEB liabilities	<u>(87,595)</u>	<u>(428,325)</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>\$ 255,163</u>	<u>\$ 232,386</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

The Knox County Utility Commission, of Knox County, Kentucky (the Commission) was created in 2001 from a merger of the East Knox Water District and the Dewitt Water District. Water Districts are organized under Chapter 74 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. The Commission is governed by a five person board of Commissioners which is appointed by the Knox County Fiscal Court. The Commission is regulated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

The Commission is a rural water utility system whose purpose is to provide water and sewer services to its customers in a portion of Knox County, Kentucky. The Commission's primary source of revenue is from water and sewer sales to its customers, including public bodies and local businesses in its service area.

Basis of Accounting, Financial Presentation and Measurement Focus

The basic financial statements of the Commission have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") is the standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting. The GASB periodically updates its codification of the existing Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards which, along with subsequent GASB pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations), constitutes GAAP for governmental units.

The Commission applies all relevant Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (APB) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails. In addition, the Commission applies all applicable FASB Statements and Interpretations issued after November 30, 1989, except those that conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

The Statements of Net Position and Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position display information about the Commission as a whole. These statements include all funds of the Commission. The statements distinguish between governmental and business-type activities. The Commission does not have any governmental activities.

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Operating income reported by the Commission includes revenues and expenses related to the continuing operation of water and sewer service for its customers. Principal operating revenues are charges to customers for services. Principal operating expenses are the costs of providing the services and include administrative expenses and depreciation of capital assets. Other revenues and expenses are classified as non-operating in the financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Commission considers demand deposits and certificates of deposit with maturities of less than three months to be cash equivalents.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Investments

The Commission is authorized by state statute to invest in: 1) obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities; 2) bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state and of its agencies and instrumentalities; 3) shares of any savings and loan insured by an agency of the government of the United States up to the amount so insured; 4) interest bearing deposits in nationally chartered or state banks chartered in Kentucky and insured by an agency of the government of the United States up to the amount so insured, and in larger amounts provided such bank shall pledge as security obligations of the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities.

Accounts Receivable

Receivables include amounts due from customers for water and sewer services. These receivables are due at the time the services are billed. Billing is completed monthly and accounts are considered past due on the twenty-first day after the end of each billing period. Accounts receivable are presented net of uncollectible accounts. The allowance amount is estimated using a percentage of accounts past due more than 90 days. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the allowance for doubtful accounts totaled \$17,000.

Unbilled Accounts Receivable

Estimated unbilled revenues from water and sewer sales are recognized at the end of each fiscal year on a pro rata basis. The estimated amount is based on billing during the month following the close of the fiscal year.

Inventories and Prepaid Expenses

Inventories consist of expendable supplies held for consumption stated on a first-in, first-out basis. They are reported at cost and are recorded as an expense at the time individual items are used. Prepaid expenses include payments to vendors that benefit future reporting periods and are reported on the consumption basis.

Capital Assets

The Commission's property, plant and equipment with useful lives of more than one year are stated at historical cost. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the asset value or materially extend useful lives are not capitalized. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method. When assets are disposed, the cost and applicable accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts, and the resulting gain or loss is recorded in operations.

Estimated useful lives for depreciable assets are as follows:

<u>Asset Classification</u>	<u>Range of Lives</u>
Structures and improvements	35-40 years
Transmission distribution mains	50-75 years
Meters and services	30-50 years
Other equipment and vehicles	5-20 years

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 – Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Customer Deposits

The Commission collects and holds in escrow an \$80 deposit from customers to ensure collection of its water and sewer charges. Interest at an annual rate of 2.64% is paid on these deposits.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Position

Net position is comprised of the various net earnings from operating income, non-operating revenues and expenses, and capital contributions. Net position is classified in the following three components:

Net investment in capital assets – This component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.

Restricted – This component of net position consists of restricted assets less liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. Restricted assets are those with limits on their use that are externally imposed constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted – This component of net position consists of net amounts of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of the net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position.

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available, the Commission would typically use restricted assets first, but reserves the right to selectively spend unrestricted assets first.

Pensions & OPEB

For purposes of measuring net pension liability, net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions & OPEB, and pension and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the County Employees Retirement System (CERS) and additions to/deductions from CERS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by CERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The plan's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting and are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) that apply to governmental accounting for fiduciary funds. Investments are reported at fair value.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 2 – Restricted Assets

Restricted assets consist of customer water and sewer deposits. The balance of customer deposits held at December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$54,909 and \$57,062, respectively.

Note 3 – Kentucky Revised Statute

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, all of the cash of the Commission was covered by federal depository insurance and securities pledged as collateral on behalf of the Commission. In accordance with Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 91A.060, the deposits are to be insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized to the extent uninsured by any obligations permitted by KRS 41.240(4). According to KRS 41.240(4), financial institutions shall either pledge or provide as collateral securities or other obligations having an aggregate current face value or current quoted market value at least equal to the deposits. According to KRS 91A.060, the Commission is allowed to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. agencies, repurchase agreements, obligations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its agencies, interest bearing deposits of insured savings and loans, or interest bearing deposits of insured national or state banks. For additional cash descriptive information, see Note 1.

Note 4 – Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Commission's deposits may not be returned to it. The Commission does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, \$296,636 and \$359,304 of the Commission's total deposits at banks of \$546,636 and \$609,304, respectively, were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Uninsured and uncollateralized	\$ -	\$ -
Uninsured and collateral held by pledging bank	296,636	359,304
Uninsured and collateral held by pledging bank's trust department not in the Commission's name	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 296,636</u>	<u>\$ 359,304</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 5 – Capital Assets

The following is a summary of capital asset transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024:

	Balance Dec. 31, 2023	Additions	Dispositions	Balance Dec. 31, 2024
Land and land improvements	\$ 44,619	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,619
Structures and improvements	571,133	51,313	-	622,447
Pumping equipment	344,410	8,033	-	352,442
Meters and meter installation	1,408,994	51,043	-	1,460,037
Hydrants	53,816	-	-	53,816
Storage tanks	1,148,102	-	-	1,148,102
Transmission and distribution plant	10,554,219	2,089,420	-	12,643,639
Vehicles and other equipment	638,922	15,229	-	654,151
Office equipment	79,831	-	-	79,831
Lift stations	344,195	-	-	344,195
Construction in Progress	1,738,739	350,681	2,089,420	-
Totals at historical cost	<u>16,926,980</u>	<u>2,565,719</u>	<u>2,089,420</u>	<u>17,403,279</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Structures and improvements	469,873	7,104	-	476,977
Pumping equipment	182,886	15,005	-	197,891
Meters and meter installation	650,827	27,238	-	678,065
Hydrants	45,000	767	-	45,767
Storage tanks	695,810	21,569	-	717,379
Transmission and distribution plant	5,374,695	167,852	-	5,542,547
Vehicles and other equipment	462,784	21,253	-	484,037
Office equipment	79,650	182	-	79,832
Lift stations	188,134	7,649	-	195,785
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>8,149,660</u>	<u>268,619</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,418,280</u>
Capital assets - net	<u>\$ 8,777,320</u>	<u>\$ 2,297,100</u>	<u>\$ 2,089,420</u>	<u>\$ 8,984,999</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 5 – Capital Assets (Continued)

The following is a summary of capital asset transactions for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Dec. 31, 2022	Additions	Dispositions	Dec. 31, 2023
Land and land improvements	\$ 44,619	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,619
Structures and improvements	531,909	39,224	-	571,133
Pumping equipment	313,865	30,545	-	344,410
Meters and meter installation	1,299,648	109,345	-	1,408,994
Hydrants	53,816	-	-	53,816
Storage tanks	1,148,102	-	-	1,148,102
Transmission and distribution plant	10,554,219	-	-	10,554,219
Vehicles and other equipment	603,544	35,378	-	638,922
Office equipment	79,831	-	-	79,831
Lift stations	344,195	-	-	344,195
Construction in Progress	2,860	1,735,879	-	1,738,739
Totals at historical cost	<u>14,976,608</u>	<u>1,950,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,926,980</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Structures and improvements	463,679	6,194	-	469,873
Pumping equipment	167,860	15,026	-	182,886
Meters and meter installation	625,742	25,083	-	650,827
Hydrants	44,199	801	-	45,000
Storage tanks	674,242	21,568	-	695,810
Transmission and distribution plant	5,212,417	162,279	-	5,374,695
Vehicles and other equipment	439,284	23,500	-	462,784
Office equipment	76,455	3,194	-	79,650
Lift stations	181,417	6,717	-	188,134
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>7,885,295</u>	<u>264,362</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,149,660</u>
Capital assets - net	<u>\$ 7,091,313</u>	<u>\$ 1,686,009</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,777,320</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 6 – Long-Term Debt

The following is a summary of long-term debt transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2024</u>	<u>Due Within</u> <u>One Year</u>
Loans payable to Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation, payable annually in varying principal amounts, with final payment due January 1, 2039; interest payable on a semi-annual basis at rates varying from 2.25% to 3.5%	\$ 1,705,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,605,000	\$ 105,000
Loan payable to Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (see below)	\$ 1,045,255	\$ 349,356	\$ -	\$ 1,394,611	\$ -
	<u>\$ 2,750,255</u>	<u>\$ 349,356</u>	<u>\$ 100,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,999,611</u>	<u>\$ 105,000</u>

The Commission entered into an assistance agreement with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) on December 28, 2022 to provide financial assistance for the Barbourville Connection Project. The project budget is \$2,336,833 and the KIA loan is for \$1,394,611. Interest payments commenced after the first draw of funds. Full principal and interest payments will commence within one year of initiation of operation. Principal forgiveness of 50% of the assistance amount, not to exceed \$1,000,000, will be credited to the loan balance upon release of liens on all contracts and disbursement of the final draw request. The interest rate of the loan is 0.25% and the loan term is twenty (20) years. The estimated annual debt service is \$30,595 plus an administrative fee of \$1,491, for a total estimated annual debt service of \$32,087. Repayment is expected to begin during fiscal year 2025.

The following is a summary of long-term debt transactions for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2023</u>	<u>Due Within</u> <u>One Year</u>
Loans payable to Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation, payable annually in varying principal amounts, with final payment due January 1, 2039; interest payable on a semi-annual basis at rates varying from 2.25% to 3.5%	\$ 1,800,000	\$ -	\$ 95,000	\$ 1,705,000	\$ 100,000
Loan payable to Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (Interim Financing)	-	1,045,255	-	1,045,255	-
	<u>\$ 1,800,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,045,255</u>	<u>\$ 95,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,750,255</u>	<u>\$ 100,000</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 6 – Long-Term Debt (Continued)

The aggregate annual principal repayments, excluding the KIA interim financing on long-term debt at December 31, 2024 are summarized as follows:

Year ending December 31:	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 105,000	\$ 53,913	\$ 158,913
2026	105,000	50,500	155,500
2027	110,000	47,088	157,088
2028	110,000	43,513	153,513
2029	115,000	39,938	154,938
2030-2034	585,000	141,231	726,231
2035-2039	475,000	42,174	517,174
Total	<u>\$ 1,605,000</u>	<u>\$ 418,357</u>	<u>\$ 2,023,357</u>

Note 7 – Retirement Plan

Knox County Utility Commission is a participating employer of the County Employees Retirement System (CERS). Under the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statute Section 61.645, the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Public Pension Authority (KPPPA) administers CERS, in accordance with the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statute Sections 16.555, 61.570, and 78.630. The assets of the system are segregated by plan (KERS, CERS, and SPRS), where each system's assets are used only for the payment of benefits to the members of that plan and a pro rata share of administrative costs. The plan issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be downloaded from the Kentucky Public Pension Authority website.

Plan Description

CERS is a cost sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan that covers substantially all regular full-time members employed in non-hazardous and hazardous duty positions of each participating state department, board, agency, county, city, school board, and any additional eligible local agencies electing to participate in the System.

Benefits Provided

The plan provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members. Retirement benefits may be extended to beneficiaries of plan members under certain circumstances. Benefits under the plan will vary based on final compensation, years of service and other factors as fully described in the Plan documents. Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) are provided at the discretion of state legislature.

Contributions

Funding for the plan is provided through payroll withholdings and contributions by the Commission. All employees meeting the requirements for membership are required to contribute a percentage of their gross wages. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, plan members in non-hazardous positions were required to contribute 5% of the employee's total compensation subject to contribution.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Contributions (Continued)

Employees hired after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute an additional 1% to cover the cost of medical insurance that is provided through CERS. Participating employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. Per Kentucky Revised Statute Section 61.565, normal contribution and past service contribution rates shall be determined by the Kentucky Public Pension Authority Board of Trustees on the basis of the annual actuarial valuation last preceding the July 1 of a new biennium. The Board may amend contribution rates as of July 1 of the second year of a biennium, if it is determined on the basis of a subsequent actuarial valuation that amended contribution rates are necessary to satisfy requirements in accordance with the actuarial basis adopted by the Board. The Commission's required contribution rates for the year ended December 31, 2024 were 23.34% (January through June 2024) and 19.71% (July through December 2024). The Commission's required contribution rates for the year ended December 31, 2023 were 26.79% (January through June 2023) and 23.34% (July through December 2023). Required contribution rates were actuarially determined and adopted by the Kentucky Public Pension Authority Board of Trustees. Administrative costs of the Kentucky Public Pension Authority are financed through employer contributions and investment earnings.

Plan members who began participating on or after January 1, 2014 are required to contribute to the Cash Balance Plan. The Cash Balance Plan is known as a hybrid plan because it has characteristics of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. A Cash Balance Plan resembles a defined contribution plan because it determines the value of benefits for each participant based on individual accounts. However, the assets of the plan remain in a single investment pool like a traditional defined benefit plan. A Cash Balance Plan resembles a defined benefit plan since it uses a specific formula to determine benefits. Members and employers contribute specified percentages of the member's wages each month to the member's account. Non-hazardous plan members are required to contribute 5% of wages to their individual account. All members are required to contribute 1% to the health insurance fund. The employer contribution rate is set annually by the Board based on an actuarial valuation. Each month, when employer contributions are received, an Employer Pay Credit is deposited to the member's account.

For non-hazardous members, their account is credited with a 4% Employer Pay Credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution. The account earns a guaranteed amount of interest, 4% on both the member contributions and the Employer Pay Credit Balance, at the end of each fiscal year. If the member contributed to the plan during the fiscal year, there may be additional interest credit added to the member's account depending on Kentucky Public Pension Authority's investment returns. This "upside" interest sharing is based on the 5-year average geometric investment return. If it exceeds 4% the member's account will be credited with 75% of the amount of the returns over 4% on the account balance as of June 30 of the previous year.

The Commission's payroll for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022 was \$420,097, \$416,550, and \$396,446, respectively, of which \$385,409, \$386,982, and \$366,132, respectively, was covered by CERS. The Commission's contribution requirements for CERS for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$89,954 (\$89,954 allocated to the CERS pension fund), \$96,875 (\$85,896 allocated to the CERS pension fund and \$10,979 allocated to the CERS insurance fund), and \$98,380 (\$77,218 allocated to the CERS pension fund and \$21,162 allocated to the CERS insurance fund), respectively. The Commission contributed 100% of their required contributions for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Commission reported a liability of \$733,260 and \$823,944, respectively for their proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and the total pension liability used to calculate net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of those dates. The Commission's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Commission's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating plan members, as actuarially determined. At the June 30, 2024 and 2023 measurement dates, the Commission's proportion was 0.012261% and 0.012841%, respectively.

For financial reporting, the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024, was performed by Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS). The total pension liability, net pension liability, and sensitivity information as of June 30, 2024 were based on an actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2023. The total pension liability was rolled forward from the valuation date (June 30, 2023) to the plan's fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, using generally accepted actuarial principles.

The Board of Trustees adopted new actuarial assumptions on May 9, 2023. These assumptions are included in the report titled "2022 Actuarial Experience Study for the Period Ending June 30, 2022", and include a change in the investment return assumption from 6.25% to 6.50%. The total pension liability as of June 30, 2024 is determined using these updated benefit provisions. The actuarial assumptions are:

Inflation	2.30%
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00% for CERS non-hazardous and hazardous
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service for CERS non-hazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.50% for CERS non-hazardous and hazardous

The mortality table used for active members was a Pub-2010 General Mortality table, for the Non-Hazardous System, and the Pub-2010 Public Safety Mortality table for the Hazardous System, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. The mortality table used for healthy retired members was a system-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. The mortality table used for the disabled members was PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with a 4-year set-forward for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019.

The Commission recognized pension expense of \$21,170 and \$48,118 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)

At December 31, 2024, the Commission reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 35,491	\$ -
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments	-	47,145
Changes of assumptions	-	33,219
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of pension contributions	-	47,833
Employer pension contributions subsequent to the measurement date	46,102	-
Total	<u>\$ 81,593</u>	<u>\$ 128,197</u>

Deferred outflows and inflows related to differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments are netted. Deferred outflows and inflows related to experience gains/losses, the impact of changes in actuarial assumptions, changes in the employer's proportionate share of net pension liability, and differences between employer contributions and the proportionate share of contributions are amortized over the average remaining service life of the active and inactive System members at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The \$46,102 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Commission contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:

2025	\$ (67,169)
2026	3,184
2027	(18,123)
2028	(10,598)
Total	<u>\$ (92,706)</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)

At December 31, 2023, the Commission reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 42,654	\$ 2,239
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments	-	11,239
Changes of assumptions	-	75,515
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of pension contributions	23,468	47,732
Employer pension contributions subsequent to the measurement date	45,990	-
Total	<u>\$ 112,112</u>	<u>\$ 136,725</u>

Actuarial Assumptions

The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the actuarially determined contributions effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

Amortization Method	Level percent of pay
Remaining Amortization Period	30 years, closed
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00%
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Inflation	2.50%
Salary Increase	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service, for CERS non-hazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.50%

The mortality table used for active members is RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (multiplied by 50% for males and 30% for females). For healthy retired members and beneficiaries, the mortality table used is the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back for one year for females). For disabled members, the RP-2000 Combined Disabled Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back four years for males) is used for the period after disability retirement. There is some margin in the current mortality tables for possible future improvement in mortality rates and that margin will be reviewed again when the next experience investigation is conducted.

The long-term expected rate of return was determined by using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rate of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target asset allocation percentage. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions (Continued)

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Growth		
Public Equity	50.00%	4.15%
Private Equity	10.00%	9.10%
Fixed Income		
Core Fixed Income	10.00%	2.85%
Specialty Credit	10.00%	3.82%
Cash	0.00%	1.70%
Inflation Protected		
Real Estate	7.00%	4.90%
Real Return	13.00%	5.35%
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.50 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that the funds receive the required employer contributions each future year, as determined by the current funding policy, as most recently revised by House Bill 8, passed during the 2021 legislative session. The assumed future employer contributions reflect the provisions of House Bill 362 (passed during the 2018 legislative session) which limit the increases to the employer contribution rates to 12% over the prior fiscal year through June 30, 2028.

Sensitivity of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the net pension liability of the Commission's CERS pension plan, calculated using the discount rate of 6.50 percent, as well as what the Commission's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.50 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.50 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.50%)	Current Discount Rate (6.50%)	1% Increase (7.50%)
Commission's net pension liability	\$ 945,292	\$ 733,260	\$ 557,329

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in a separately issued CERS financial report.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 8 –OPEB Plan

As a participating employer of the County Employees' Retirement System (CERS), the Commission also participates in the County Employees Retirement System Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund). Under the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statute Sections 61.645 and 61.701, the Board of Trustees of Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA) administers the Kentucky Retirement Systems Insurance Fund (KERS), County Employees Retirement System (CERS) and State Police Retirement System (SPRS). The statutes provide for a single insurance fund to provide group hospital and medical benefits to retirees drawing a benefit from the three pension funds. The assets of the Insurance Fund are also segregated by plan. The plan issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be downloaded from the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority website.

Plan Description

CERS Insurance Fund is a cost sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) plan that covers substantially all regular full-time members employed in non-hazardous and hazardous duty positions of each participating state department, board, agency, county, city, school board, and any additional eligible local agencies electing to participate in the System.

Plan Membership

The net OPEB liability was calculated based on the Insurance plan membership as of June 30, 2024:

Membership Status	Non-Hazardous
Inactive plan members currently receiving benefits	38,679
Inactive plan members entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	27,097
Active plan members	78,418
Total Membership	<u>144,194</u>

Benefits Provided

The Insurance Fund was established to provide hospital and medical insurance for eligible members receiving benefits from KERS, CERS, and SPRS. The eligible non-Medicare retirees are covered by the Department of Employee Insurance (DEI) plans. KPPA submits the premium payments to DEI. The Board contracts with Humana to provide health care benefits to the eligible Medicare retirees through a Medicare Advantage Plan. The Insurance Fund pays a prescribed contribution for whole or partial payment of required premiums to purchase hospital and medical insurance. The Insurance Fund pays a proportion of hospital and medical insurance premiums for the spouse and dependents of retired hazardous members killed in the line of duty. The amount of contribution paid by the Insurance Fund is based on years of service. Additional details can be found in the publicly available Kentucky Retirement Systems Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which may be downloaded from the KPPA website.

Contributions

Funding for the plan is provided through payroll withholdings and contributions by the Commission. See Note 7 for a description of the Commission's covered payroll and contribution requirements as well as the breakdown of contributions between the pension and insurance funds.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

At December 31, 2024 and 2023 the Commission reported an asset of \$21,230 and \$17,728, respectively for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of those dates. The Commission's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on a projection of the Commission's long-term share of contributions to the OPEB plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating plan members, as actuarially determined. At the June 30, 2024 and 2023 measurement dates, the Commission's proportion was 0.0122730% and 0.012840%, respectively.

For financial reporting the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024 was performed by Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS). The total OPEB liability, net OPEB liability, and sensitivity information as of June 30, 2024, were based on an actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability was rolled-forward from the valuation date (June 30, 2023) to the plan's fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, using generally accepted actuarial principles. These assumptions can be readily obtained from KPPA's 2024 Annual Report.

The following actuarial assumptions were used in performing the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level percent of pay
Remaining Amortization Period	30 years, closed
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00%
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Inflation	2.30%
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service for CERS non-hazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.25%
Healthcare Trend Rates	
Pre - 65	Initial trend starting at 6.25% at January 1, 2021 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years.
Post - 65	Initial trend starting at 5.50% at January 1, 2021 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 14 years.
Phase-in Provision	Board certified rate is phased into the actuarially determined rate in accordance with HB 362 enacted in 2018 for CERS non-hazardous and hazardous

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Continued)

The long-term expected return was determined by using the building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target allocation percentage. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are the same as those adopted for the CERS Pension Plan and are summarized in the table in Note 7.

The Commission recognized OPEB expense of (\$53,567) and (\$33,784) for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

At December 31, 2024, the Commission reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 11,778	\$ 167,037
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on OPEB plan investments	-	19,373
Changes of assumptions	19,237	14,980
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of OPEB contributions	7,973	25,493
Total	<u>\$ 38,988</u>	<u>\$ 226,883</u>

Deferred outflows and inflows related to differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments are netted. Deferred outflows and inflows related to experience gains/losses, the impact of changes in actuarial assumptions, changes in the employer's proportionate share of net OPEB liability, and differences between employer contributions and the proportionate share of contributions are amortized over the average remaining service life of the active and inactive System members at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Continued)

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

2025	\$	(75,373)
2026		(56,567)
2027		(52,665)
2028		(3,291)
Thereafter		-
Total	\$	<u>(187,897)</u>

At December 31, 2023, the Commission reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 12,359	\$ 251,717
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on OPEB plan investments	-	4,114
Changes of assumptions	34,887	24,313
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of OPEB contributions	15,746	26,582
Total	<u>\$ 62,992</u>	<u>\$ 306,726</u>

Investment Policy

Kentucky Revised Statute 61.650 grants the responsibility for the investment of plan assets to the Kentucky Pension Plan Authority. The Board has established an Investment Committee which is specifically charged with the oversight and investment of plan assets. The Investment Committee recognizes their duty to invest the funds in accordance with the "Prudent Person Rule" (set forth in Kentucky Revised Statute 61.650) and manage those funds consistent with the long-term nature of the systems. The Investment Committee has adopted an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) that contains guidelines and restrictions for deposits and investments. By statute, all investments are to be registered and held in the name of Kentucky Retirement Systems. The IPS contains the specific guidelines for the investment of Pension and Insurance assets. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class adopted by the KPPA Board for the Insurance Plan are the same as those adopted for the CERS Pension Plan (See Note 7).

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

Net OPEB Liability

The components of the net OPEB liability (asset) of the participating employers in the CERS Non-Hazardous System and the Commission's proportionate share at June 30, 2024 were as follows:

	Total CERS Non-Hazardous System	Commission's Proportionate Share
Total OPEB liability	\$ 3,534,297,000	\$ 433,764
Plan fiduciary net position	(3,707,277,000)	(454,994)
Employers' Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	<u>\$ (172,980,000)</u>	<u>\$ (21,230)</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	104.89%	104.89%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability increased from 5.93% to 5.99%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that local employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 24 years (closed) amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The discount rate determination used an expected rate of return of 6.50% and a municipal bond rate of 3.97%, as reported in Fidelity Index's "20 – Year Municipal GO AA Index" as of June 30, 2024.

Sensitivity of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) calculated using the discount rate of 5.99 percent, as well as what the Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (4.99 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.99 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.99%)	Current Discount Rate (5.99%)	1% Increase (6.99%)
Commission's net OPEB liability	\$ 28,705	\$ (21,230)	\$ (63,215)

Knox County Utility Commission
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

Sensitivity of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates

The following presents the Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the healthcare cost trend rate, as well as what the Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a healthcare cost trend rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Commission's net OPEB liability	\$ 28,705	\$ (21,230)	\$ (63,215)

Note 9 – Risk Management

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss related to limited torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions and natural disasters for which the Commission carries commercial insurance. There have been no significant reductions in coverage for the year and settlements have not exceeded coverage in the past three years.

Note 10 - Subsequent Events

Management of the Commission has evaluated subsequent events through March 20, 2025, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Net Position - Water Department
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 489,790	\$ 569,214
Receivables, less allowance	136,176	126,955
Unbilled accounts receivable	112,627	113,949
Inventories	70,381	84,396
Other current assets	3,803	4,900
Total Current Assets	<u>812,777</u>	<u>899,414</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Restricted Assets		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	54,909	57,062
Total Restricted Assets	<u>54,909</u>	<u>57,062</u>
Capital Assets		
Land and improvements	44,619	44,619
Structures and improvements	622,447	571,133
Pumping equipment	331,848	323,816
Meters and meter installation	1,459,644	1,408,601
Hydrants	53,816	53,816
Storage tanks	1,148,102	1,148,102
Transmission and distribution plant	12,113,789	10,024,369
Vehicles and other equipment	653,436	638,208
Office equipment	79,831	79,831
Construction in Progress	0	1,738,739
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,029,076)</u>	<u>(7,776,185)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>8,478,456</u>	<u>8,255,049</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>8,533,365</u>	<u>8,312,111</u>
Total Assets	<u>9,346,142</u>	<u>9,211,525</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Bond issue costs, net of amortization	40,338	46,465
Differences between expected and actual experience related to pensions	35,491	42,654
Differences between expected and actual experience related to OPEB	11,778	12,359
Changes of assumptions related to OPEB	19,237	34,887
Changes in proportion and differences between employer pension contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	23,468
Changes in proportion and differences between employer OPEB contributions and proportionate share of contributions	7,973	15,746
Pension contributions subsequent to measurement date	46,102	45,990
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>160,919</u>	<u>221,569</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Net Position - Water Department (Continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 105,000	\$ 100,000
Accounts payable	35,718	46,235
Accrued interest payable	47	47
Accrued salaries and taxes payable	103,764	103,814
Other current liabilities	54,222	45,729
Total Current Liabilities	<u>298,751</u>	<u>295,825</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Customer deposits	55,817	54,867
Net pension liability	733,260	823,944
Net OPEB liability (asset)	(21,230)	17,728
Long-term debt, less current portion	2,894,612	2,650,255
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>3,662,459</u>	<u>3,546,794</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,961,210</u>	<u>3,842,619</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Differences between expected and actual experience related to pensions	-	2,239
Differences between expected and actual experience related to OPEB	167,037	251,717
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	47,145	11,239
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	19,373	4,114
Changes of assumptions related to pensions	33,219	75,515
Changes of assumptions related to OPEB	14,980	24,313
Changes in proportion and differences between employer pension contributions and proportionate share of contributions	47,833	47,732
Changes in proportion and differences between employer OPEB contributions and proportionate share of contributions	25,493	26,582
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>355,080</u>	<u>443,451</u>
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	5,478,844	5,504,794
Restricted	54,909	57,062
Unrestricted	(342,981)	(417,214)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 5,190,772</u>	<u>\$ 5,144,642</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - Water Department
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Revenues		
Water sales	\$ 1,551,742	\$ 1,538,703
Service charges	13,084	14,370
Tap fees	23,616	19,358
Penalties	37,815	37,723
Other revenues	57,687	22,952
Total Operating Revenues	<u>1,683,944</u>	<u>1,633,106</u>
Operating Expenses		
Salaries and wages	384,169	402,905
Employee benefits	121,759	191,605
Purchased power	392,411	254,390
Utilities	53,833	69,892
Chemicals	34,282	71,740
Repairs and maintenance	81,251	67,101
Contracted services	28,912	30,839
Vehicle and equipment expenses	25,786	30,507
Insurance	40,431	45,095
Amortization	3,064	6,128
Depreciation	251,959	248,160
Bad debt expense, net of recoveries	21,865	19,725
Other operating expenses	137,255	93,493
Total Operating Expenses	<u>1,576,977</u>	<u>1,531,580</u>
Operating Income	<u>106,967</u>	<u>101,526</u>
Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)		
Interest income	2,046	2,467
Federal and state grants	-	675,048
Interest expense	(62,883)	(62,447)
Insurance reimbursements	-	16,766
Total Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(60,837)</u>	<u>631,834</u>
Change in Net Position	46,130	733,361
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>5,144,642</u>	<u>4,411,281</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 5,190,772</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,144,642</u></u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Cash Flows - Water Department
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	\$ 1,682,060	\$ 1,613,811
Payments to employees	(495,556)	(659,197)
Payments to suppliers	(980,302)	(726,052)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>206,202</u>	<u>228,562</u>
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(476,299)	(1,950,370)
Insurance reimbursements	-	18,603
Principal payments on debt	(100,000)	(95,000)
Interest payments on debt	(62,883)	(60,250)
Federal, state and local grants	-	675,048
Proceeds from debt	<u>349,357</u>	<u>1,045,255</u>
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(289,825)</u>	<u>(366,714)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Interest on cash and investments	<u>2,046</u>	<u>2,468</u>
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	<u>2,046</u>	<u>2,468</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(81,577)	(135,684)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>626,276</u>	<u>761,960</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 544,699</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 626,276</u></u>
Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 489,790	\$ 569,214
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	54,909	57,062
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 544,699</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 626,276</u></u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Cash Flows - Water Department (Continued)
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash		
Provided by Operating Activities:		
Operating income	\$ 106,967	\$ 101,526
Adjustments to reconcile operating income		
to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	251,959	248,160
Amortization	3,064	6,128
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	(11,741)	(16,132)
Unbilled accounts receivable	1,322	5,975
Inventory	(14,015)	(20,106)
Other current assets	(1,097)	(574)
Deferred pension & OPEB costs	(19,201)	349,213
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	10,517	(22,590)
Customer deposits	42	(1,007)
Accrued expenses	(50)	6,062
Other current liabilities	8,493	236
Net Pension & OPEB liabilities	<u>(87,598)</u>	<u>(428,329)</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>\$ 248,662</u>	<u>\$ 228,562</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Net Position - Sewer Department
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,937	\$ (4,561)
Receivables, less allowance	2,520	2,315
Total Current Assets	<u>4,457</u>	<u>(2,246)</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Capital Assets		
Pumping equipment	20,594	20,594
Meters and meter installation	393	393
Transmission and distribution plant	529,850	529,850
Vehicles and other equipment	714	714
Lift stations	344,195	344,195
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(389,203)</u>	<u>(372,543)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>506,543</u>	<u>523,203</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>506,543</u>	<u>523,203</u>
Total Assets	<u>511,000</u>	<u>520,957</u>
Liabilities and Net Position		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	<u>1,604</u>	<u>1,721</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,604</u>	<u>1,721</u>
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	506,543	523,203
Unrestricted	2,853	(3,967)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 509,396</u>	<u>\$ 519,236</u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - Sewer Department
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Revenues		
Sewer sales	\$ 34,624	\$ 20,517
Total Operating Revenues	<u>34,624</u>	<u>20,517</u>
Operating Expenses		
Salaries and wages	2,365	1,742
Employee benefits	181	133
Utilities	1,355	1,336
Sewer treatment	23,800	12,696
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0
Depreciation	16,660	17,134
Bad debt expense, net of recoveries	<u>103</u>	<u>67.0</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>44,464</u>	<u>33,108</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(9,840)</u>	<u>(12,591)</u>
Change in Net Position	(9,840)	(12,591)
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>519,236</u>	<u>531,827</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 509,396</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 519,236</u></u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Departmental Statements of Cash Flows - Sewer Department
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	\$ 34,419	\$ 18,997
Payments to employees	(2,365)	(1,742)
Payments to suppliers	(25,556)	(13,434)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>6,498</u>	<u>3,821</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,498	3,821
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>(4,561)</u>	<u>(8,382)</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 1,937</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (4,561)</u></u>
Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash		
Provided by Operating Activities:		
Operating loss	\$ (9,840)	\$ (12,591)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss		
to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	16,660	17,134
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	(205)	(1,520)
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	<u>(117)</u>	<u>798</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ 6,498</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,821</u></u>

Knox County Utility Commission
Schedule of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) Pension Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Commission's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.01226%	0.01284%	0.01380%	0.01278%	0.01405%	0.01400%	0.01289%	0.01171%	0.01084%	0.01195%	0.01154%
Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 733,260	\$ 823,944	\$ 997,676	\$ 812,287	\$ 1,077,317	\$ 984,415	\$ 784,979	\$ 685,481	\$ 533,899	\$ 513,737	\$ 374,454
Commission's covered-employee payroll	\$ 385,409	\$ 386,982	\$ 366,132	\$ 372,177	\$ 294,636	\$ 371,743	\$ 335,581	\$ 301,660	\$ 254,414	\$ 280,292	\$ 270,908
Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	190.26%	212.92%	272.49%	218.25%	365.64%	264.81%	233.92%	227.24%	209.85%	183.29%	138.22%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	61.61%	57.47%	52.42%	57.33%	47.81%	50.45%	53.54%	53.32%	55.50%	59.97%	66.80%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the Commission will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.

Knox County Utility Commission
Schedule of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) OPEB Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Commission's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset)	0.01227%	0.01284%	0.01380%	0.01278%	0.01405%	0.01400%	0.01289%	0.01171%
Commission's proportionate share of the total OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 433,764	\$ 418,572	\$ 712,252	\$ 653,730	\$ 701,583	\$ 594,950	\$ 539,956	\$ 494,541
Commission's proportionate share of the plan fiduciary net position	<u>\$ (454,994)</u>	<u>\$ (436,300)</u>	<u>\$ (448,059)</u>	<u>\$ (409,025)</u>	<u>\$ (362,511)</u>	<u>(359,577)</u>	<u>(311,132)</u>	<u>(259,110)</u>
Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (21,230)	\$ (17,728)	\$ 264,193	\$ 244,705	\$ 339,072	\$ 235,373	\$ 228,824	\$ 235,431
Commission's covered-employee payroll	\$ 385,409	\$ 386,982	\$ 366,132	\$ 372,177	\$ 294,636	\$ 371,743	\$ 335,581	\$ 301,660
Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	-5.51%	-4.58%	72.16%	65.75%	115.08%	63.32%	68.19%	78.05%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	104.89%	104.23%	60.95%	62.91%	51.67%	60.44%	57.62%	52.39%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the Commission will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.

Knox County Utility Commission
Schedule of the Commission's Pension Contributions
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) Pension Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Contractually required contribution	\$ 89,841	\$ 87,222	\$ 86,937	\$ 63,025	\$ 63,035	\$ 65,997	\$ 51,488	\$ 42,878	\$ 33,645	\$ 35,282	\$ 35,871
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>\$ (89,841)</u>	<u>\$ (87,222)</u>	<u>\$ (86,937)</u>	<u>\$ (63,025)</u>	<u>\$ (63,035)</u>	<u>(65,997)</u>	<u>(51,488)</u>	<u>(42,878)</u>	<u>(33,645)</u>	<u>(35,282)</u>	<u>(35,871)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Commission's covered-employee payroll	\$ 385,409	\$ 386,982	\$ 366,132	\$ 372,177	\$ 294,636	\$ 371,743	\$ 335,581	\$ 301,660	\$ 254,414	\$ 280,292	\$ 270,908
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	23.31%	22.54%	23.74%	16.93%	21.39%	17.75%	15.34%	14.21%	13.22%	12.59%	13.24%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

Contractually required employer contributions exclude the portion of contributions paid to CERS but allocated to the insurance fund of the CERS. The above contributions include those contributions allocated directly to the CERS pension fund.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the Commission will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.

Knox County Utility Commission
Schedule of the Commission's OPEB Contributions
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) OPEB Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 5,774	\$ 12,636	\$ 15,914	\$ 15,544	\$ 15,564	\$ 18,628	\$ 16,704	\$ 14,223
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>\$ (5,774)</u>	<u>\$ (12,636)</u>	<u>\$ (15,914)</u>	<u>\$ (15,544)</u>	<u>\$ (15,564)</u>	<u>(18,628)</u>	<u>(16,704)</u>	<u>(14,223)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Commission's covered-employee payroll	\$ 385,409	\$ 386,982	\$ 366,132	\$ 372,177	\$ 294,636	\$ 371,743	\$ 335,581	\$ 301,660
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	1.50%	3.27%	4.35%	4.18%	5.28%	5.01%	4.98%	4.71%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

Contractually required employer contributions exclude the portion of contributions paid to CERS but allocated to the pension fund of the CERS. The above contributions include those contributions allocated directly to the CERS insurance fund.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the Commission will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.



Independent Auditors' 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 Commissioners
Knox County Utility Commission
Artemus, Kentucky

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 business-type activities of Knox County Utility Commission, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Knox County Utility Commission's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 20, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Knox County Utility Commission'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 opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission'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 combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity'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 and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses (See 2024-1).

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Knox County Utility Commission'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*.

Knox County Utility Commission's Response to Findings

Knox County Utility Commission's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. Knox County Utility Commission's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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

Abner & Cox, PLLC

Abner & Cox, PLLC
London, Kentucky

March 20, 2025

Knox County Utility Commission
Schedule of Findings and Responses
December 31, 2024

2024-1

Criteria:

As discussed in *Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government* published by the General Accounting Office of the United States, internal control is an integral component of an organization's management that provides reasonable assurance that an objective of reliable financial reporting is being achieved. Organizations should implement procedures to ensure this objective is achieved.

Condition:

During the audit procedures performed, instances of this objective not being completely achieved were noted.

Cause:

The size of the Commission's office staff does not allow for proper segregation of duties with regard to cash collections, billing, accounts receivable bookkeeping, and payroll processing.

Effect:

The condition creates a weakness in internal controls which could result in unauthorized transactions being processed.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions:

The Commission feels that it would not be cost beneficial to hire the personnel required to complete these tasks.