



OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update



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State Auditor
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January 24, 2020

1. Reminder: State of Main Street Listening Tour
2. Reminder: County Administrative Expenses
3. Update: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group
4. Deadline: Fire Equipment Certification Reminder

1. Reminder: State of Main Street Listening Tour

The Office of the State Auditor invites you to join us for our State of Main Street Listening Tour. In January, we will travel to locations across the state to hear your understanding of the trends that face local government in Minnesota. Your feedback is needed to ensure our numbers tell the real story of your community.

Twin Cities Metro

Friday, January 24, 2020 (10:00-11:30am)

Saint Paul City Hall & Ramsey County Courthouse, Room 41,
15 Kellogg Blvd W, Saint Paul, MN 55102

****Please allow enough time to park and get through security. We recommend arriving around 9:30am in order to get through security at City Hall.***

Marshall

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 (11:00am-12:30pm)

Marshall-Lyon County Library, 201 C Street, Marshall, MN 56258

Albert Lea

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 (4:00-5:30pm)

Albert Lea City Hall, Council Chambers, 221 E Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007

The listening sessions will include a review of statewide trends found in the State Auditor's most recent city, county, and township reports. Following the approximately 30 minute review with the State Auditor, a panel comprised of leaders in local government will be providing the regional reality for the trends found as well as fielding questions from the audience.

Please contact Megan Thrasher, External Affairs Coordinator, with any questions or concerns regarding the State of Main Street Listening Tour at 651-297-3675 or megan.thrasher@osa.state.mn.us.

A shareable copy of the 2020 State of Main Street Listening Tour Invite is available at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/stateofmainstreet/2020statemainstreetinvite.pdf>

2. Reminder: County Administrative Expenses

Counties may require, by February 15th of the year after the year in which expenses are incurred, reimbursement for actual administrative expenses incurred under the TIF Act. To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=CoAdminExp>

3. Update: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group

The Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group held its last meeting of the season on January 23. The Working Group members conducted a final review and approval of draft legislation for introduction during the 2020 Legislative Session. In addition to some technical changes, the Working Group approved moving forward with the following legislative changes:

- Authorizing a supplemental benefit payment with each lump-sum distribution that a firefighter may receive;
- Requiring that deferred members of a relief association with a defined contribution plan be credited with interest or additional investment income during their period of deferral;
- Reducing the length of time that fire chiefs must wait to certify service credit amounts to the relief association and municipality after the amounts have been provided to firefighters; and
- Changing accrued liability calculations for relief associations with a defined benefit plan so that the calculations are based on a relief association's specific vesting requirements and each member's age and length of service.

We will keep relief associations updated on the progress of the Working Group legislation in our monthly Pension Division Newsletter and in future Updates. Working Group meeting materials are available on the OSA website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=reliefworkinggroup>

4. Deadline: Fire Equipment Certification Reminder

The 2020 Fire Equipment Certification (FA-1) Form and the Certification of Service Areas Protected are due to the Minnesota Department of Revenue by March 15, 2020. Submission of the forms is required for communities to be eligible for 2020 fire state aid.

The forms were sent by mail to the municipal clerk or secretary of the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation in early January, and must be signed by the fire chief and by the municipal clerk or secretary of the independent nonprofit firefighting corporation, as applicable.

Five percent of a community's fire state aid is forfeited for each week or fraction of a week that the forms are submitted past the March 15 due date. Additional information about this

reporting requirement and a list of fire departments for which the forms have been received are provided on the Minnesota Department of Revenue's website at:

<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/fire-state-aid>

If you are interested in signing up to receive an e-mail version of the E-Update regularly, send an e-mail with your contact information to signup@osa.state.mn.us.

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