

Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology

*The Auditors' Communication with
Those Charged with Governance*

June 30, 2021





November 9, 2021

To the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of
Science and Technology

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), an agency of the State of Oklahoma, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated June 15, 2021. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by OCAST are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As discussed below, new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended June 30, 2021. We noted no transactions entered into by OCAST during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

In January 2017, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities* (GASB 84). GASB 84 improves guidance regarding the recognition and reporting of fiduciary activities. GASB 84 identifies four types of reportable fiduciary fund types, including 1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, 2) investment trust funds, 3) private-purpose trust funds, and 4) custodial funds. GASB 84 outlines the accounting and disclosure requirements for operating structures that qualify as a fiduciary activity. OCAST adopted GASB 84 effective July 1, 2020, for the June 30, 2021, reporting year, which did not have a significant impact on the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In June 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 87, *Leases* (GASB 87). GASB 87 defines a lease as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. GASB 87 improves accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under GASB 87, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021. Earlier application is encouraged. OCAST has not determined the impact of GASB 87 on the financial statements.

In August 2018, GASB issued Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interest* (GASB 90). GASB 90 improves the consistency and comparability of reporting government's majority equity interest in a legally separate organization and to improve the relevance of financial statement information for certain component units. OCAST adopted GASB 90 effective July 1, 2020, for the June 30, 2021, reporting year, which did not have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In May 2019, GASB issued Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations* (GASB 91). GASB 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminates diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligation, and (3) related note disclosures. OCAST will adopt GASB 91 effective July 1, 2021, for the June 30, 2022, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 91 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In January 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 92, *Omnibus 2020* (GASB 92). GASB 92 enhances comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. This Statement addresses a variety of topics and includes specific provisions. OCAST will adopt GASB 92 effective July 1, 2021, for the June 30, 2022, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 92 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In March 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates* (GASB 93). GASB 93 is to address other accounting and financial reporting implications that result from the replacement of interbank offered rates. OCAST will adopt GASB 93 effective July 1, 2022, for the June 30, 2023, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 93 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In March 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements* (GASB 94). GASB 94 is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. OCAST will adopt GASB 94 effective July 1, 2022, for the June 30, 2023, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 94 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance* (GASB 95). GASB 95 provides temporary postponement of the effective dates of certain provisions in GASB Statements and Implementation Guides that first became effective or are scheduled to become effective after June 15, 2018. Most affected statements are postponed by one year while GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, and Implementation Guide No. 2019-3, *Leases*, are postponed by 18 months. GASB 95 was effective immediately.

In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (GASB 96). GASB 96 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines an SBITA; (2) establishes that an SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of an SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding an SBITA. OCAST will adopt GASB 96 effective July 1, 2022, for the June 30, 2023, reporting year. OCAST has not determined the impact of GASB 96 on the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In June 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria and Accounting Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans—an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 84, and a supersession of GASB Statement No. 32 (GASB 97)*. GASB 97 objectives are to (1) increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform; (2) mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements; and (3) enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 457 deferred compensation plans (Section 457 plans) that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans. OCAST will adopt GASB 97 effective July 1, 2021, for the June 30, 2022, reporting year. OCAST has not determined the impact of GASB 97 on the financial statements.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting OCAST's financial statements were:

The computation of the net pension liability, the net OPEB asset, and the total OPEB liability required significant estimates by management. We reviewed the actuarial information used to compute the pension liability and the OPEB asset and liability.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no uncorrected misstatements (audit differences).

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated November 9, 2021.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to OCAST's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Matters or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as OCAST's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis and the schedules of OCAST's pension and OPEB information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplement the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Other Required Communications

We as independent auditors are required to:

- a. Communicate significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control to the audit committee or its equivalent.
- b. Report directly to the audit committee (or equivalent) any fraud that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements and any fraud involving senior management. Fraud perpetrated by lower-level employees is also to be reported if it resulted in an individually significant misstatement.
- c. Report illegal acts or violations of laws or regulations that come to our attention (except those that are clearly inconsequential).

We have nothing to report.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of OCAST's Board of Directors and management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

Finley + Cook, PLLC