

**Jefferson Parish Office of Inspector General**



# **Inspector General Report**

**March 2025**

**Kim Raines Chatelain, Inspector General**

**INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT  
TO THE ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE COMMISSION  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

**I. JPOIG Operations**

**A. Budget**

1. Budget to actual report through 1st Quarter will be presented next meeting.

**B. Compliance**

1. Staff evaluations, none.
2. 2024 Annual Report  
By March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, the JPOIG is required by Parish ordinance to report on the activities of the office for the preceding calendar year. Our 2024 Annual Report was published and shared on 03/18/2025.

**C. Procurement**

None.

**D. Recruitment and retention**

1. 02/11/2025 Pathways to Careers in Government Law Presentation at Loyola College of Law.

**E. Professional Development**

1. Inspector General Kim Chatelain will attend White Collar Crime Symposium.
2. Deputy Inspector General Erica Smith instructed on audit planning, risk assessment, peer review, and audit supervision at the Association of Inspectors' General Institute.



## II. JPOIG Reports

JPOIG	Type	Description	Draft	Published
#2024-0003	Investigation	East Bank Consolidated Fire Department Emergency Pay	12/19/2024	02/13/2025



February 13, 2025

### Why We Did This Investigation

The Jefferson Parish Office of Inspector General (JPOIG) received an anonymous complaint that East Bank Consolidated Fire Department (EBCFD) employees received Emergency Pay for a weather event on 01/16/2024 without legal authority. Relatedly, the JPOIG investigated whether Civil Service rules for the EBCFD provide for Emergency Pay. Upon learning of the allegation, the JPOIG emailed the Parish President, Chief Operating Officer, Finance Director, and Fire Chief on 02/07/2024 raising concerns regarding the legal basis of Emergency Pay to EBCFD.

### What We Recommend

- Jefferson Parish should not pay Emergency Pay to EBCFD members without a specific, legal basis to do so, such as authorization in the Pay Plan of the Personnel Rules of the East Bank Consolidated Fire Protection District ("Red Book").
- The EBCFD Fire Chief should review all Green Book policies to ensure that they are within the authority of the Fire Chief as authorized by the Red Book.

### What We Found

The JPOIG's investigation revealed the following:

- ❖ The Parish paid East Bank Consolidated Fire Department (EBCFD) employees Emergency Pay without legal authority to do so. The Parish paid 71 EBCFD employees Emergency Pay totaling \$27,550 during the winter weather event on 01/16/2024.
- ❖ The EBCFD departmental policy providing for Emergency Pay exceeded legal authority under fire civil service Personnel Rules. The Fire Chief does not have legal authority to set wages for fire personnel.

The EBCFD is a department within Jefferson Parish government, and EBCFD employees are Jefferson Parish ("Parish") employees. EBCFD provides rescue, fire prevention, and fire suppression services on the East Bank of the Mississippi River. EBCFD is supervised by a Fire Chief who is appointed by the Parish President.

EBCFD employees are part of the fire civil service which is separate from Parish civil service. Their employment is governed by the Personnel Rules of the East Bank Consolidated Fire Protection District ("Red Book") which does not provide for Emergency Pay. The Parish Administration directed EBCFD employees to receive between 5 – 17 hours of Emergency Pay compensation for the 01/16/2024 winter weather event without legal authority.

The (Former) EBCFD Fire Chief issued a departmental policy dated 01/01/2023 authorizing EBCFD personnel to receive Emergency Pay. Article 10 Part I §10 of the Louisiana Constitution requires that "any rule or determination affecting wages" must be approved by the governing authority. The Parish Council is the governing authority, and it did not authorize Emergency Pay.

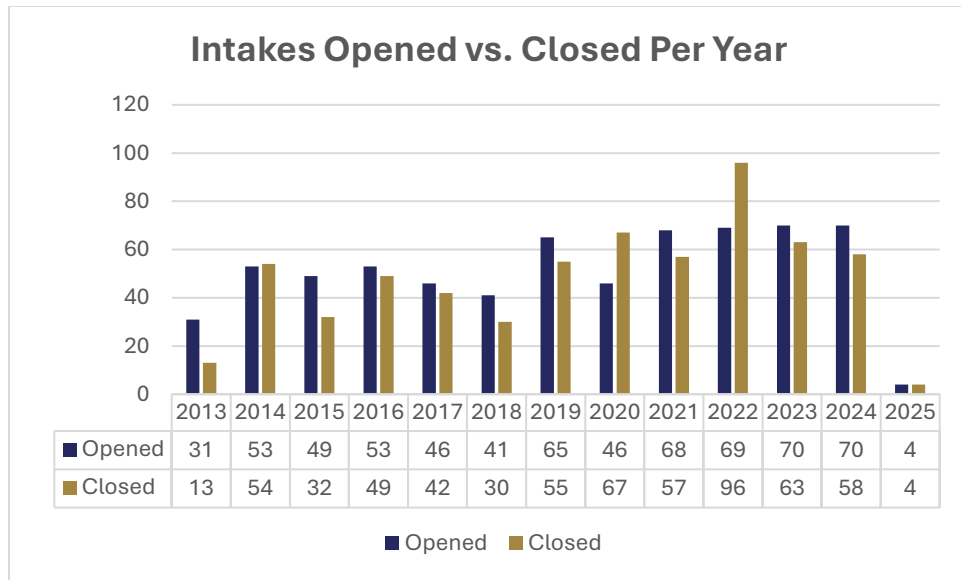
The Parish, through the Parish President, responded "[a]fter consultation with the Parish Attorney's Office the Fire Chief confirmed that the 'Green Book' Emergency Pay policy is not prohibited."

The response offers only a conclusive assertion devoid of any supporting rationale or references which directly contradicts the Louisiana Constitution, specifically Article 10, Part I, §10(4)(C). It suggests the Fire Chief can unilaterally alter wages without Parish Council approval. Further, the response fails to acknowledge the Administration's role in the unlawful payment of Emergency Pay.

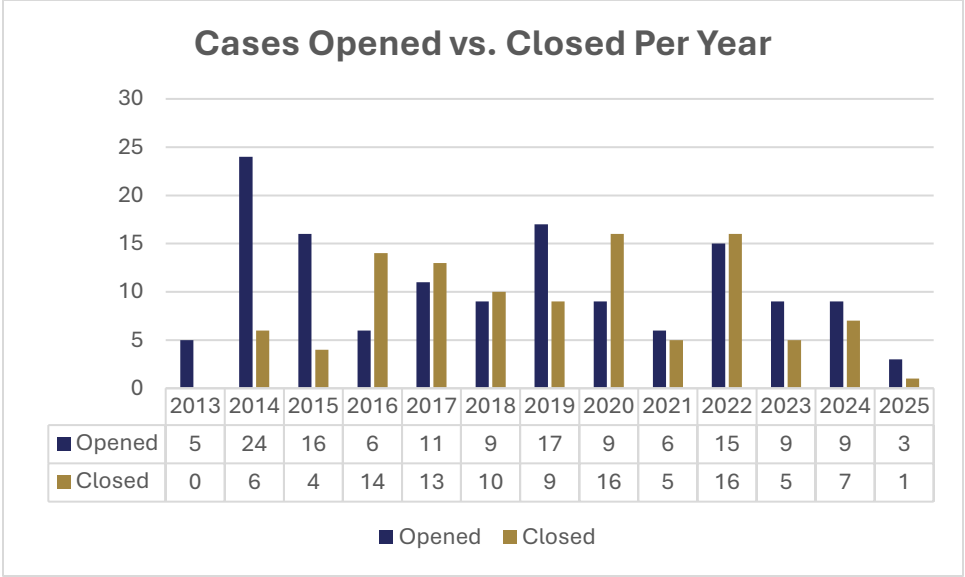
Visit us at: [www.JPOIG.net](http://www.JPOIG.net)



### III. Milestones



01/13/2025 through 03/16/2025			
Intakes Opened	Complaint Date	Intakes Closed	Close Date
2025-000000001	1/14/2025	2023-000000063	2/6/2025
2025-000000002	1/29/2025	2024-000000053	2/27/2025
2025-000000003	2/5/2025	2024-000000062	2/27/2025
2025-000000004	3/11/2025	2024-000000065	2/27/2025



01/13/2025 through 03/16/2025			
Cases Opened	Open Date		Cases Closed
2025-0000000001	2/6/2025		2024-0000000009
2025-0000000002	2/26/2025		
2025-0000000003	3/14/2025		



#### IV. Audits

Case Open Date	Case ID	Data Group	Case Status	Summary	% Complete
Feb 19, 2024	2024-000000002	Audits	Fieldwork	LCMC Cooperative Endeavor Agreement	65%
Sep 30, 2024	2024-000000007	Audits	Assigned	Jefferson Facilities Inc. Source & Use of Funds	5%
Sep 30, 2024	2024-000000008	Audits	Assigned	Jefferson Redevelopment, Inc.	5%
Feb 26, 2025	2025-000000002	Audits	Assigned	Parish Use of LCMC Hospital Lease Proceeds	5%

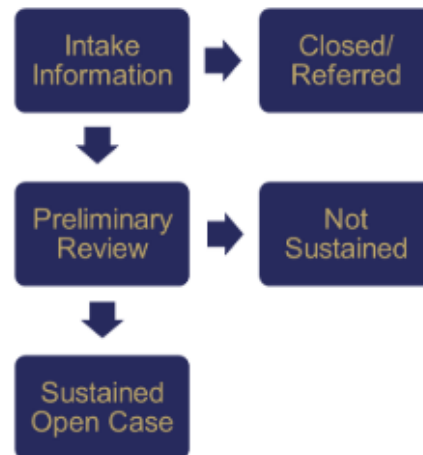
#### V. Evaluations/Inspections

Case Open Date	Case ID	Data Group	Case Status	Summary	% Complete
Jun 27, 2022	2022-000000020	Evaluations	Fieldwork	Personnel Hiring Practices Evaluation.	65%
Oct 18, 2023	2023-000000009	Evaluations	Fieldwork	Third-Party Inspections Evaluation	65%
Feb 6, 2025	2025-000000001	Evaluations	Fieldwork	Review of Lease Transactions for Multi-Use Development	65%



## VI. Investigations

Investigations as of	03/16/2025
Open Intakes:	45
Open Cases:	23



## VII. Public outreach and engagement

### A. NEW Tabs on JPOIG website:





1. Annual & Monthly Reports
2. Quality Assurance Reviews

Previously, the Annual Reports and Quality Assurance Reviews were posted with the Audit, Investigation, and Evaluation Reports. The Monthly Reports were not previously posted.

B. 01/22/2025 IG Chatelain appeared on The Neutral Ground radio show hosted by Kaare Johnson on WSLA 93.9 FM.

C. 02/24/2025 IG Chatelain was invited to present to the West Jefferson Civic Coalition to discuss the JPOIG's upcoming annual report and ongoing/upcoming audits and evaluations.

## VIII. Social Media

Social Media Platform		Engagement
	<b>Facebook</b> 845 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gained 4 followers.</li><li>• 4 Posts/Re-posts.</li><li>• Reached 7,022 viewers across app posts.</li><li>• Page Visits: 535.</li></ul>
	<b>Instagram</b> 78 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gained 6 followers.</li><li>• 4 Posts/Re-posts.</li><li>• Reached 110 viewers across app posts.</li><li>• Page Visits: 19.</li></ul>
	<b>X</b> 174 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lost 3 followers.</li><li>• 4 Tweets/Re-tweets.</li></ul>
	<b>Linked-In</b> 336 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gained 6 followers.</li><li>• 4 Posts/Re-posts.</li><li>• 1,108 Post Impressions.</li></ul>



## **REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, OR ABUSE**

### **BY INTERNET:**

Visit our website at [www.jpoig.net](http://www.jpoig.net), click  
"Report Waste, Fraud or Abuse"

### **BY PHONE:**

Call our tip line at (504) 528-4444

### **BY MAIL:**

990 N. Corporate Drive, Suite 300  
Jefferson, LA 70123

### **IN PERSON:**

Contact us at (504) 736-8962 to schedule an appointment

## **JPOIG Social Media**



[X.com/JPOIG](https://x.com/JPOIG)



Channel: Jefferson  
Parish Office of  
Inspector General



[Facebook.com/JPOIG](https://Facebook.com/JPOIG)



[LinkedIn.com/Company/JPOIG](https://LinkedIn.com/Company/JPOIG)



**990 N. Corporate Drive Suite 300**

**Jefferson, LA 70123**

**Phone (504) 736-8962**