

PICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
RAYVILLE, LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
DECEMBER 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Emmett "Lee" Brown, III
Richland Parish Assessor
Rayville, LA 71269

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Richland Parish Assessor as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Assessor's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities of the Richland Parish Assessor as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America

Basis for Opinions

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 *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Richland Parish Assessor, 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 opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Richland Parish Assessor'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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. 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 the Richland Parish Assessor's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Richland Parish Assessor'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 management discussion and analysis (pages 5-12), budgetary comparison information, schedule of changes in total OPEB liability and related ratios, schedule of employer's share of net pension liability, and schedule of employer required pension contributions (included in the table of contents on pages 44-49) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a

part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the *Schedule of Compensation, Reimbursements, Benefits, and Other Payments to the Agency Head*, but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 14, 2024, on our consideration of the Richland Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Richland Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Richland Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

COCHRAN, CLARK & THOMASON

Cochran Clark & Thomason

Rayville, LA
June 14, 2024

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION**

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

Within this section of the Richland Parish Assessor, Rayville, Louisiana (the Parish Assessor) annual financial report, the Parish Assessor's management is pleased to provide this narrative discussion and analysis of the financial activities of the Parish Assessor for the calendar year ended December 31, 2023. The Parish Assessor's financial performance is discussed and analyzed within the context of the accompanying financial statements and disclosures following this section.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parish Assessor's assets exceeded its liabilities (net position) by \$10,222,398 for 2023.
- Total net position is comprised of the following:

December 31, 2023

- (1) Capital assets of \$51,580 include property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation.
 - (2) Unrestricted assets of \$10,170,818 represent the portion available to maintain the Parish Assessor's continuing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Parish Assessor's governmental funds reported an unassigned total ending fund balance of \$12,910,802 for 2023.
 - At the end of the current calendar year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$12,910,802 or 1,366% of total General Fund expenditures.
 - Overall, the Parish Assessor continues to maintain a strong financial position.

The above financial highlights are explained in more detail in the "financial analysis" section of this document.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The first item in this report is the Independent Auditors' Report. This report tells the reader what the auditor audited and if the Parish Assessor has followed the accounting and financial reporting rules. For the year ended 2023, the auditor has given the Parish Assessor what is commonly called "a clean opinion". This means that the Parish Assessor is following the accounting rules and the following financial statements reflect the financial position and the financial activity for the year ended December 31, 2023. The auditors' report is signed by the independent auditor. The auditors' report may be found on pages 1 to 3 of this financial report.

OVERVIEW OF THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This Management Discussion and Analysis document introduces the Parish Assessor's basic financial statements. The basic financial statements include: (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, (3) notes to the basic financial statements, and (4) other required supplementary information as may be applicable. The Parish Assessor also includes in this report other financial information. These statements and schedules are listed on the Table of Contents page.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Parish Assessor's annual report includes two government-wide financial statements. These statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the Parish Assessor's overall financial status. Financial reporting at this level uses a perspective similar to that found in the private sector with its basis in accrual accounting and elimination or reclassification of activities between funds.

The first of these government-wide statements is the Statement of Net Position. This is the government-wide statement of position presenting information that includes all of the Parish Assessor's assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Parish Assessor as a whole is improving or deteriorating. Evaluation of the overall health of the Parish Assessor would extend to other nonfinancial factors such as diversification of the taxpayer base, in addition to the financial information provided in this report.

The second government-wide statement is the Statement of Activities, which reports how the Parish Assessor's net position changed during the current calendar year. All current year revenues and expenses are included regardless of when the Parish Assessor receives or pays cash. An important purpose of the design of the statement of activities is to show the financial reliance of the Parish Assessor's distinct activities or functions on revenues provided by the Parish Assessor's taxpayers.

The government-wide financial statements are presented on pages 15 through 16 of this report.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is an accountability unit used to maintain control over resources segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Parish Assessor uses a single fund to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related laws and regulations. Within the basic financial statements, fund financial statements focus on the Parish Assessor's only fund, the general fund.

The Parish Assessor uses only one fund type:

The Government fund is reported in the fund financial statements and encompasses the same function reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, the focus is very different with fund statements providing a distinctive view of the Parish Assessor's governmental fund. These statements report short-term calendar year accountability focusing on the use of spendable resources and balances of spendable resources available at the end of the year. They are useful in evaluating annual financing requirements of governmental programs and the commitment of spendable resources for the near-term.

Since the government-wide focus includes the long-term view, comparisons between these two perspectives may provide insight into the long-term impact of short-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund operating statement provide a reconciliation to assist in understanding the differences between these two perspectives.

The basic governmental fund financial statements are presented on pages 18 through 21 of this report.

Notes to the basic financial statements

The accompanying notes to the financial statements provide information essential to a full understanding of the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements begin on page 22 of this report.

Other information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information. Other required supplementary information is information that the accounting rules strongly suggest be presented within the Assessor's financial report. The general fund's budgetary comparison statement is included as "other required supplementary information". This statement demonstrates compliance with the Parish Assessor's adopted and final budget. The other required supplementary information includes a schedule of funding progress for the other postemployment benefits, a schedule of required pension contributions and a schedule of proportional share of net pension liability and related ratios.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE PARISH ASSESSOR AS A WHOLE

The following table provides a summary of the Parish Assessor's net position:

	<u>Summary of Net Position</u>			
	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Assets:				
Current Assets	9,317,055	67%	8,160,445	62%
Non-Current Assets	3,058,975	20%	3,560,123	27%
Capital Assets	51,580	0%	68,710	1%
Total Assets	<u>13,028,210</u>	<u>93%</u>	<u>11,795,278</u>	<u>90%</u>
Deferred Outflows	930,935	7%	1,361,115	10%
Total Assets & Deferred Outflows	<u>13,959,145</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>13,156,393</u>	<u>100%</u>
Liabilities:				
Current Liabilities	5,865	0%	7,304	0%
Deferred Inflows	630,390	17%	732,022	20%
Long-Term Other and Postemployment and Pension Benefits Payable	<u>3,094,492</u>	<u>83%</u>	<u>3,024,957</u>	<u>80%</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,736,747</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>3,764,283</u>	<u>100%</u>
Net Position:				
Net Investment in Capital Asset	51,580	1%	68,710	1%
Unrestricted	<u>10,170,818</u>	<u>99%</u>	<u>9,323,400</u>	<u>99%</u>
Total Net Position	<u>10,222,398</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>9,392,110</u>	<u>100%</u>

The Parish Assessor continues to maintain an extremely high current ratio. The current ratio compares current assets to current liabilities and is an indication of the ability to pay current obligations. The current ratio for governmental activities remains strong. They are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Ratio	1,589 to 1	1,117 to 1

The Parish Assessor reports a positive balance in the net position for its governmental activities. Net positions have changed as follows:

2023 Increase 830,288
 2022 Increase 749,017

Note that 1% of the governmental activities' assets are represented by capital assets in both years. The Parish Assessor uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens.

The following data is presented on the accrual basis of accounting which means that all costs are presented, however, the purchase of capital assets is not included but depreciation on the capital assets is included.

The following table provides a summary of the Parish Assessor's changes in net position:

	Summary of Changes in Net Position			
	2023		2022	
	Governmental Activities	% of Total	Governmental Activities	% of Total
Revenues:				
Program:				
Charges for Services	23,984	1%	25,416	1%
General:				
Taxes	1,938,190	83%	1,808,593	86%
Non-Employer Pension Contributions	157,297	6%	159,543	6%
Interest	223,863	10%	108,673	5%
Total Revenues	<u>2,343,334</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>2,102,215</u>	<u>100%</u>
Program Expenses:				
Operational:				
Salaries and Benefits	774,970	51%	803,943	60%
Other Postemployment & Pension Benefits	550,581	37%	375,180	28%
Operating Services	105,754	7%	92,472	7%
Materials and Supplies	20,242	1%	17,905	1%
Travel and Other	47,136	3%	42,554	3%
Depreciation	12,464	1%	15,099	1%
Lease Interest & Amortization	1,879	0%	2,115	0%
Total Expenses:	<u>1,513,047</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>1,353,168</u>	<u>100%</u>
Change in Net Position	830,288		749,017	
Beginning Net Position	<u>9,392,110</u>		<u>8,643,093</u>	
Ending Net Position	<u>10,222,398</u>		<u>9,392,110</u>	

GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES

The Parish Assessor is heavily reliant on property taxes to support its operations. As a result, the general economy and local businesses have a major impact on the Parish Assessor's revenue streams.

Sources of revenue are shown below by percentage:

General Revenues	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Property Tax	83	86
Non-Employer Pension Payment	6	3
Interest	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>99</u>	<u>99</u>
Program Revenues	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Revenues	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Since assessor operations are staff oriented, a major portion of the budget is used for employee salaries and benefits each year.

The following is a summary of the major operational expenses as a percentage of total expenses:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Salaries and Benefits	51%	60%
Other Postemployment & Pension Benefits	37%	28%
Operating Services	7%	7%
Materials and Supplies	1%	1%

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE PARISH ASSESSOR'S GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is the Parish Assessor's operating fund and the source of day-to-day service delivery. As discussed, the General Fund is reported in the fund statements with a short-term, inflow and outflow of spendable resources focus. This information is useful in assessing resources available at the end of the year in comparison with upcoming financing requirements. Remember the data presented in the fund financial statements is presented on the modified accrual basis. This means that capital assets purchased during the year are reported as expenditures and no depreciation on these capital assets is reported as an expenditure in the same year.

The total fund balance and change per year is reported in the following chart:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total fund balance	12,910,802	11,673,239	10,652,039	9,658,412
Change from prior year	1,237,563	1,020,200	994,627	964,342

The fund balance is unreserved indicating availability for continuing Parish Assessor service requirements.

As a percentage of annual expenditures, the General Fund's ending fund balance is considered very adequate. The percentages each year are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fund balance as a % of Annual expenditures	1,366%	1,213%

Though some might consider this percentage high, it is necessary for the Parish Assessor to maintain a strong financial position in order to cover its cash flow needs and any unforeseen costs that might occur in the future. Note that the Parish Assessor is financing its operations on a "pay-as-you-go" system, which means currently there is no outstanding long-term debt (e.g., bonded debt) for capital purposes. In other words, all capital items are free and clear of debt.

BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The General Fund budget was amended. In 2023, the Parish Assessor realized 111% of the revenue budget and the actual expenditures were only 86% of the budgeted amounts.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Capital assets:		
Depreciable, Equipment, furniture and fixtures	204,680	204,682
Less accumulated depreciation	(192,941)	(180,457)
Net Depreciable Assets	11,739	24,225
Inventoried Assets	<u>39,841</u>	<u>44,484</u>
Book value-capital assets	<u>51,580</u>	<u>68,710</u>

The depreciable capital assets for governmental activities were 94% depreciated at the end of 2023 and 89% depreciated at the end of 2022. The total percentage of depreciated capital assets is quite high, which means that additional resources will be required to replace these capital assets in the future.

Long-term debt

At year-end, the Parish Assessor had no long-term debt outstanding. The Parish Assessor may issue general obligation debt to meet its capital needs but has elected to fund these needs on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. Financing capital on a current basis eliminates the deferral of capital costs to future periods.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE PARISH ASSESSOR

Since the primary revenue stream for the Parish Assessor is property taxes, this type of tax is not subject to changes in the economy, in the short-term. However, in the long-term property tax revenues suffer if the economy does not maintain growth.

Accrued cost for "other postemployment benefits" (OPEB payable and the related expense) were recorded pursuant to GASB No. 75. These calculations are determined by an actuary for presentation in the Assessor's annual financial report. This liability is significant in comparison to the Assessor's total assets and has substantially reduced the net position.

For retirement reporting, GASB 68 as amended by GASB 71 was implemented to report the pension cost liabilities, deferred outflows and deferred inflows. The accrued cost and liabilities are reported in the government wide statements. The calculations are provided in the audited financial statements of the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement Fund.

CONTACTING THE PARISH ASSESSOR'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Parish Assessor's finances, comply with finance-related laws and regulations, and demonstrate the Parish Assessor's commitment to public accountability. If you have any questions about the contents of this report or would like to request additional information, please contact Mr. Lee Brown, at the Richland Parish Assessor's Office, 708 Julia Street, Room 115, Rayville, Louisiana, 71269.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)**

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position - Government Activities
December 31, 2022

ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	7,422,991
Investments (amortized cost)	3,648,278
Taxes Receivable (net)	1,594,664
Right to Use Asset	10,697
Capital assets (net)	<u>51,580</u>
Total Assets	<u>13,928,210</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Other Post Employment Benefit Obligation	519,069
Pension Plan	<u>401,866</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>920,935</u>
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>13,959,145</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	5,865
Lease Obligation	10,801
Other Post Employment Benefits Payable	2,605,030
Net Pension Liability	<u>478,661</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,100,357</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Other Post Employment Benefit Obligation	582,713
Pension Plan	<u>52,677</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>635,390</u>
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>3,735,747</u>
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	51,580
Restricted	-
Unrestricted	<u>10,170,318</u>
Total Net Position	<u>10,221,898</u>

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Statement of Activities - Government Activities
December 31, 2023

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues Charges for Services	Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Assets Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities:			
General Government	<u>1,513,046</u>	<u>23,984</u>	<u>(1,489,062)</u>
General revenues:			
Taxes:			
Property taxes, levied for general purposes			1,938,190
Non-Employer Pension Contributions			157,297
Interest and Investment Earnings			<u>223,863</u>
Total General Revenues			<u>2,319,350</u>
Change in Net Position			600,288
Net Position - January 1, 2023			<u>9,391,110</u>
Net Position - December 31, 2022			<u>10,222,398</u>

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See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FFS)

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Balance Sheet - Governmental Fund
December 31, 2023

ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	7,425,991
Investments (amortized cost)	3,648,278
Taxes Receivable (net)	<u>1,894,664</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>12,965,933</u></u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	<u>5,865</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>5,865</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Unavailable Taxes	<u>49,266</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>49,266</u>
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>55,131</u>
FUND BALANCES	
Nonspendable	-
Restricted	-
Committed	-
Assigned	-
Unassigned	<u>12,910,802</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>12,910,802</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	<u><u>12,965,933</u></u>

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2025

Total fund balance for the Governmental Fund	12,910,802
Total net position reported for Governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position is different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. These assets consist of:	
Equipment, furniture and fixtures, net of accumulated depreciation	\$1,580
Right to use assets for equipment used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	10,697
Deferred outflows of expenditures for the OPEB obligation and retirement system are not available resources and therefore, are not reported in the fund financial statements. Those deferred outflows consist of:	
Deferred outflows related to OPEB	529,069
Deferred outflows related to pension	491,866
Revenues that have been deferred are unearned in the government funds but are recognized as revenue in the government-wide financial statements.	49,166
Deferred inflows of contributions for the OPEB obligation and retirement system are not payable from current expendable resources, and therefore, are not reported in the fund financial statements. Those deferred inflows consist of:	
Deferred inflows related to OPEB	(534,713)
Deferred inflows related to pension	(52,677)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period, and therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds. Those long-term liabilities consist of:	
Lease Obligation	(10,801)
Other Post Employment Benefits Payable	(2,695,030)
Net Pension Obligation	(478,861)
Total Net Position of Governmental Activities	10,221,398

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of
the basic financial statements.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances -
Governmental Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Revenues	
Ad Valorem Taxes	1,935,125
Fire District Fees	11,905
Other Revenues	12,079
Interest & Investment Earnings	223,863
	<hr/>
Total Revenues	2,182,972
	<hr/>
Expenditures:	
Current -	
General Government:	
Personnel Services and Related Benefits	774,970
Operating Service	107,704
Materials and Supplies	15,599
Travel and Other Charges	47,136
	<hr/>
Total Expenditures	945,409
	<hr/>
Net Change in Fund Balance	1,237,563
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	11,673,239
	<hr/>
Fund Balance - End of Year	12,910,802
	<hr/> <hr/>

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund
to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

Total net changes in fund balance per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance		1,137,583
The change in net position reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities is different because:		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expenses.		
Disposal of Capital Assets	(4,646)	
Less Current Year Depreciation	(11,484)	(17,130)
Governmental funds report deferred earned revenue as liabilities. However, in the statement of activities these revenues are fully accrued as follows:		
Current Year Deferrals	49,100	
Prior Year Deferrals	(46,191)	3,009
Governmental funds report lease payments as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the payments are reported as a decrease in lease obligation and interest expense. In the statement of activities, the right to use asset for the leased asset is amortized.		
Expenditures for Lease Payments	1,951	
Interest on Lease Obligation	(106)	
Amortization of Right to Use Asset	(1,679)	72
Other post-employment benefits are reported in the governmental funds as expenditures when paid. However, in the government wide statement of activities, OPEB expense is reported based on the additional adjustments to the total OPEB liability determined by an actuarial valuation, and includes various amortized amounts.		
		(246,009)
Governmental funds report retirement expenditures as payment is remitted to the retirement system. However, in the government-wide statement of activities, retirement is reported based on the additional allocation stated in the retirement system report, and includes the Assessor's share of Non-employers pension contributions and various amortized amounts.		
		(140,979)
Total Changes in Net Position per Statement of Activities		330,283

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a term of four years. The Assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish, subject to ad valorem taxation. The Assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as necessary for the efficient operation of his office and to provide assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the Assessor is officially and pecuniarily responsible for the actions of the deputies.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Assessor conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governments. Such accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:513, as well as any applicable requirements set forth by *Audits of State and Local Governments*, the industry audit guide issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*.

The following is a summary of certain significant accounting policies:

A. Financial Reporting Entity

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Richland Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Richland Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Because the Police Jury maintains and operates the parish courthouse in which the Assessor's office is located, the Assessor was determined to be a component unit of the Richland Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Assessor and do not present information on the Police Jury, the general government services provided by the Police Jury, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The statement of net position and statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Assessor's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

C. Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Assessor are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

The Assessor maintains only one fund. It is categorized as a governmental fund. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and,
- b. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The major fund of the Assessor is described below:

Governmental Fund - General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Assessor. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

D. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Measurement Focus

On the government-wide statement of net position and the statement of activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus as defined in item b. below.

In the fund financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus or the "economic resources" measurement focus is used as appropriate:

- a. The governmental fund utilizes a "current financial resources" measurement focus. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on its balance sheet. Their operating statement presents sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. This fund uses fund balance as its measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.
- b. The government-wide financial statement utilizes an "economic resources" measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basis of Accounting

In the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities, the government activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures (including capital outlay) generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources and Net Position

Cash and interest-bearing deposits

For purposes of the statement of net position, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposits of the Assessor.

Investments

According to FS 33:2955, political subdivisions of the state are allowed to invest in certain bonds issued by domestic United States Corporations. The investments are reported at amortized cost.

The amortized cost of investments includes the par values of the bonds at maturity plus unamortized premiums or discounts. The premium and discount will be amortized using the straight-line method until the bonds have reached maturity. Amortization of premiums and discounts are reported as decreases and increases in interest revenue and as reductions to the unamortized premiums and discounts.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Receivables

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. Major receivable balances for the governmental activities include ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing. Ad valorem taxes are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible taxes. At December 31, 2023, an allowance for ad valorem taxes was considered unnecessary due to immateriality.

Capital Assets

Capital Assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Assessor maintains a threshold level of \$2,500 or more for capitalizing these assets.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	3-5 years
------------------------------------	-----------

Compensated Absences

Depending on length of service, employees receive from ten to fifteen days of noncumulative vacation leave each year. Sick leave, which is noncumulative, is earned at the rate of five days each year and one day for every working year over three years, not to exceed fifteen days. There are no accumulated and vested benefits related to vacation and sick leave that require accrual or disclosure.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Leases

Leases of equipment will be reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. At inception, leases will be recorded at the present value of the minimum lease payments over the remaining life of the lease. The minimum lease payments will be discounted at the entity's incremental borrowing rate, which has been estimated at 6%. The right to use the equipment under the lease is recorded as an asset in the statement of net position. The right to use leased equipment will be amortized using the straight-line method over the life of the lease. In addition, the lease obligation is recorded as a liability in the statement of net position. The lease obligation will be reduced as payments are made, and an outflow for interest expense on the liability will be recognized in the statement of activities.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In some instances, the GASB requires a government to delay recognition of decreases in net position as expenditures until a future period. In other instances, governments are required to delay recognition of increases in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources result from the delayed recognition of expenditures or revenues, respectively. The Assessor's deferred outflows and inflows of resources on the government-wide statement are attributable to its pension plan and OPEB plan. Ad valorem taxes for the governmental fund which have not been remitted within 60 days subsequent to year end are considered deferred inflows of resources.

Net Position Classifications

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net Investment in Capital Assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and 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.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

- b. Restricted - Consists of assets with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions of enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted - All other assets that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balances of the governmental funds are classified as follows.

- a. Nonspendable - amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted - amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed - amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal decision of the Assessor, which is the highest level of decision-making authority for the Richland Parish Assessor.
- d. Assigned - amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under the Assessor's adopted policy, only the Assessor may assign amounts for specified purposes.
- e. Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the Assessor considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the Assessor considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the Assessor has provided otherwise in this commitment or assignment actions.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

F. Revenues, Expenditures, And Expenses

Revenues

Ad valorem taxes are recorded in the year the taxes are due and payable. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, attached as an enforceable lien, and become due and payable on the date the tax rolls are filed with the recorder of mortgages. Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1993 requires that the tax roll be filed on or before November 15 of each year. Ad valorem taxes become delinquent if not paid by December 31. The taxes are normally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Fees for preparing tax rolls are recorded in the year prepared. Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the time deposits have matured. Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Based on the above criteria, ad valorem taxes, and fees for preparing tax rolls have been treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures/Expenses

In the government-wide financial statements, expenses are classified by character and function. In the fund financial statements, expenditures are classified by character.

G. Budgetary Practices

The proposed budget for the General Fund, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is then legally adopted by the Assessor and amended during the year, as necessary. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes in the budget must be approved by the Assessor. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. The budget was amended for the year ended December 31, 2023.

H. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. 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 expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

I. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund and Subsidiary (LARF) and additions to/deductions from LARF's fiduciary net positions have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by LARF.

Financial reporting information pertaining to the Assessor's participation in the LARF is prepared in accordance with GASB Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions", as amended by GASB Statement No. 71, "Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date".

The financial statements were prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, member and employer contributions are recognized when due, pursuant to formal commitments and statutory requirements. Benefits and refunds of employee contributions are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the statutes governing LARF. Expenses are recognized when the liability is incurred, regardless of when payment is made. Investments are reported at fair value on a trade date basis. The fiduciary net positions are reflected in the measurement of the Assessor's proportionate share of the plan's net pension liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense.

NOTE 2 - CASH AND INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS

Under state law, the Assessor may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The Assessor may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 2023, the Assessor has cash and interest-bearing deposits (book balances) as follows:

Demand Deposits	1,012,508
Time Deposits	6,410,483
	<u>7,422,991</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These securities are held in

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 2 - CASH AND INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS (continued)

the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Deposit balances (bank balances) at December 31, 2023, are secured as follows:

Bank Balances	<u>7,432,465</u>
Federal Deposit Insurance	4,360,723
Pledged Securities (Category 3)	<u>3,065,742</u>
Total	<u>7,432,465</u>

Pledged securities in Category 3 include uninsured or unregistered investments for which the securities are held by the broker or dealer, or by its trust department or agent, but not in the Assessor's name.

Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Assessor that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

According to Louisiana Revised Statute 33:2955, political subdivisions are permitted to invest in certain bonds of United States domestic corporations. To qualify for investment, the bonds must meet specific long-term ratings and must mature in five years or less. Also included in the investment portfolio is an on-demand alternative to cash that is held by the broker for future investment. This account is stated at cost. By state law, this account must be secured and insured. Deposits to this account are covered by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) for up to \$250,000. The broker has also purchased excess SIPC coverage through Lloyd's, a London based firm. Excess SIPC coverage is fully protected by the Lloyd's trust funds and Lloyd's Central Fund.

All investments meet the stated requirements. Investments (stated at amortized cost) include bonds of seven United States domestic corporations. All of the bonds mature in five years or less. All of the bonds have a Moody's Investors Service long-term rating of A1 or above.

Fair Value of Bonds:	3,710,000
Unamortized Premiums:	10,308
Unamortized Discounts:	<u>(92,092)</u>
Total Investments (amortized cost):	<u>3,628,216</u>
Cash alternatives held for investment (at cost)	<u>20,062</u>
Total Investments:	<u>3,648,278</u>

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS (continued)

The cost and fair value of marketable debt securities at December 31, 2022, are as follows:

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Net Carrying Value
December 31, 2022					
Held to Maturity:					
Within one year	250,489	-	(969)	249,520	250,489
1 to 5 years	3,377,527	-	(139,325)	3,238,202	3,377,527
Totals	<u>3,628,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(140,294)</u>	<u>3,487,722</u>	<u>3,628,016</u>

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The concentration of credit risk in debt securities held to maturity is as follows:

	Net Carrying Value	Moody's	Standard & Poors	Percentage of Net Carrying Value
Apple, Inc.	249,320	Aaa	AA+	10%
Citibank, N.A.	250,489	Aa2	A+	7*
Exxon Mobile	279,524	Aa2	AA-	8%
Federal National Mortgage Ass.	675,090	Aaa	AA+	19%
Grapevine 4B Economic Dev Corp.	368,416	Aa3		10%
Johnson & Johnson	264,736	Aaa	AAA	7*
Murrieta Valley California School Dist	410,042	Aa2		11%
The Proctor & Gamble Company	262,529	Aa3	AA-	7*
U.S. Treasury Notes	767,844	Aaa		21%
	<u>3,628,016</u>			<u>100%</u>

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 4 - RECEIVABLE AND PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS

Accounts Receivable are reported without an allowance for uncollectible accounts. Management believes any allowance would be immaterial.

As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1925, the assessor is authorized to levy an ad valorem tax in lieu of pro rata deductions from ad valorem taxing authorities. The authorized millage should be an amount necessary to provide no less ad valorem taxes than that received by the assessor in the initial year. The Richland Parish Assessor levied 3.0 mills for 2023 to provide funding for the office.

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish and their 2023 assessed valuation:

	2023 Assessed Valuation	Percent of Total Assessed Valuation
Gulf South Pipeline Co., LLC	19,173,880	7.88%
Gulf Run Transmission, LLC	17,432,290	7.17%
Lamb Weston, Inc.	15,854,780	6.52%
ETC Tiger Pipeline, LLC	13,938,050	5.73%
Denbury Onshore, LLC	10,417,000	4.28%
Hydro Extrusion	9,427,700	3.88%
Entergy Louisiana, LLC	7,353,570	3.02%
ANR Pipeline, Co.	6,064,910	2.74%
Midcontinent Express Pipeline, LLC	6,055,320	2.49%
Lansing Louisiana, LLC	<u>4,926,150</u>	<u>2.03%</u>
Total	<u>111,243,650</u>	<u>45.74%</u>

NOTE 5 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, are as follows:

	Balance <u>1/01/23</u>	Additions	Deletions	Balance <u>12/31/23</u>
Capital Assets:				
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	249,107	-	(4,646)	244,521
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	(180,457)	(12,484)	-	(192,941)
Net Capital Assets	<u>68,710</u>			<u>51,580</u>

Depreciation expense of \$12,484 was charged to the general government function.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN

The Assessor participates in the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund (Fund). The Fund is a cost sharing, multiple-employer, qualified governmental defined benefit pension plan covering Assessors and their deputies employed by any parish of the State of Louisiana, under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 11:1401 through 1494. The plan is a qualified plan as defined by the Internal Revenue Service Code Section 401(a). Membership in the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund is a condition of employment for Assessors and their full time employees. The Fund's fiscal year ends on September 30.

The Fund provides retirement benefits, survivor benefits, DROP benefits, disability benefits, and back-DROP benefits. Benefits are calculated based on employment start date, length of service, and age at retirement.

According to state statute, contributions for all employers are actuarially determined each year. Although the direct employer actuarially required contribution for the Fund's fiscal year ended September 30, 2023 was 2.99%, the actual employer contribution rate for the year was 3.5% for the year ended September 30, 2023. The contributions for all members are established by statute at 8% of earned compensation. The contributions are deducted from the member's salary and remitted by the participating agency. The Fund also receives one-fourth of one percent of the property taxes assessed in each parish of the state as well as state revenue sharing funds each year as appropriated by the Legislature.

Actuarially determined amounts regarding the net pension liability are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations, and new estimates are made about the future. Key information on the actuarial valuation and assumptions is as follows:

Valuation date	September 30, 2023
Actuarial cost method	Entry Age Normal
Investment rate of return	5.50%
Inflation Rate	2.10%
Salary increases	5.25%
Mortality	Rates based on the Pub 2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN (continued)

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of September 30, 2023, are summarized in the following table.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic equity	7.50%
International equity	8.50%
Domestic bonds	2.50%
International bonds	3.50%
Real estate	4.50%

The long-term expected rate of return selected for this report by the Fund was 5.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from the participating employers and non-employer contribution entities will be made at actuarially determined contribution rates, which are calculated in accordance with relevant statutes and approved by the Board of Trustees and the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. Based on these assumptions and the other assumptions and methods as specified in this report, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability. Thus, the discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 5.50%.

The effects of certain other changes in the net pension liability are required to be included in pension expense over the current and future periods. The effects on the total pension liability of (1) changes of economic and demographic assumptions or of other inputs and (2) differences between expected and actual experience are required to be included in pension expense in a systematic and rational manner over a

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN (continued)

closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with benefits through the pension plan (active employees and inactive employees), determined as of the beginning of the measurement period. The effect on net pension liability of differences between the projected earnings on pension plan investments and actual experience with regards to those earnings is required to be included in pension expense in a systematic and rational manner over a closed period of five years, beginning with the current period. The Expected Remaining Service Lives (ERSL) for 2023 is 6 years.

As of the valuation date of September 30, 2023, the Fund reported the following members:

Employee Members	
Louisiana Assessors' Offices	64
Louisiana Assessors' Association	<u>1</u>
	<u>65</u>
Current retirees and beneficiaries	585
Terminated vested participants	15
Terminated due a refund	117
Active plan participants	<u>738</u>
Total	<u>1,456</u>

The Assessor's Deferred Outflow of Resources (employer's contributions subsequent to the measurement date) to the Fund was \$6,061. This amount will be recognized as a reduction in the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2023.

The Fund issues an annual publicly available report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Fund. That report may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System, Post Office Box 14699, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-4699 or by calling (318)425-4446.

The payroll covered by the plan and the Richland Parish Assessor's required contribution to the system are as follows:

Payroll Covered	484,897
Required Contribution	18,790

In the current year the required contribution was funded 100%. The required contribution was also funded 100% in 2007 through 2022.

Retirement System Information

Actuarial date and measurement date	9/30/23
Required Contributions	16,818
Employer Allocation Percentage	0.976938

Net Pension Liability (Asset) 478,661

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Fayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN (continued)

	Deferred Outflows	Deferred Inflows
Differences between Expected & Actual Experience	15,414	52,629
Changes of Assumptions	125,935	-
Net Differences between projected & Actual Earnings	250,077	-
Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	-	-
Changes in proportion & differences between the employer's contributions and the employer's share of contributions	4,379	48
Contributions subsequent to measuring date	6,061	-
Total	401,866	52,677
 Pension Expense		
Proportionate Share of Plan Pension Expense	321,041	
Net Amortization of Deferred amounts from Changes in Proportion	1,969	
Total Employer Pension Expense	323,010	
 Proportionate Share		
Employer contributions	16,876	
Non-Employer Contributions	157,297	
 Schedule of Net Pension Liability		
Sensitivity to Change in Discount Rate		
Employer's Proportionate Share	0.9709380	
1% Decrease	1,075,241	
1% Increase	(28,613)	
 Amortization of Net Deferred Outflows/Inflows		
	2024	82,906
	2025	106,177
	2026	158,251
	2027	(41,372)
	2028	(2,824)
Net of Deferred Outflows and Inflows, excluding contributions subsequent to the measurement date		343,128

see Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 7 - DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

The Richland Parish Assessor offers its employees participation in a Deferred Compensation Plan adopted and established in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan, available to all Assessor's employees, permits the employees to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or proof of hardship. The Assessor's Office provides a match of up to \$200 per month for employees participating in the plan.

All amounts of compensation deferred under the plan, all property and rights purchased with those amounts, and all income attributable to those amounts, property, or rights are (until paid or made available to the employee or other beneficiary) solely the property and rights of the State of Louisiana (without being restricted to the provisions of benefits under the plan) subject only to the claims of the general creditors of the State of Louisiana. Participants' rights under the plan are equal to those of general creditors of the State of Louisiana in an amount equal to the fair market value of the deferred account for each participant.

NOTE 8 - OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Plan Description - Employees of the Assessor's Office voluntarily participated in the State of Louisiana Assessor's Insurance Fund. The Plan and related trust were established on August 30, 1988, pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1022. The Assessor's Insurance Fund provides health benefits, life insurance coverage, long-term disability benefits, vision, long-term care, and death benefits to participants and to their beneficiaries and covered dependents. Retired employees are entitled to similar health benefits (in excess of Medicare coverage) provided they have attained at least age 55 with twelve years of service or thirty years of service regardless of age. The Plan issues a publicly available financial report.

Funding Policy - The contribution requirements of plan members and the Assessor are established and may be amended by Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1022. Employees do not contribute to their post employment benefits cost until they become retirees and begin receiving those benefits. Contribution amounts vary depending on what healthcare provider is selected from the plan and if the member has Medicare coverage. The Assessor's Insurance Fund offers various plans for both active and retired employees.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 8 - OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)

The Assessor's office finances the other post-employment benefit on a pay-as-you-go basis with the Assessor contributing monthly amounts. The Assessor's office does not cover the insurance cost for all retirees. For 2023, the Assessor paid a total of \$37,690 in premiums for a retiree.

As of the valuation date of January 1, 2022, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Active participants	7
Retirees	2
Spouses of Retirees	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>10</u>

	<u>December 31, 2023</u>	<u>December 31, 2022</u>
Total OPEB Liability	\$2,605,030	\$2,320,571
Covered Payroll	506,062	464,409
Total OPEB liability as a % of Covered payroll	514.76%	499.62%

The Assessor's total OPEB liability of \$2,605,030 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of the valuation date January 1, 2022, calculated based on the discount rate and actuarial assumptions below, and was projected to the measurement date December 31, 2023. Any significant changes during this period have been reflected as described by GASB 75.

The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2023, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Inflation	2.30%
Salary increases including inflation	3.00%
Mortality	Rates based on Sex-distinct Pub 2010 General Mortality

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 3.20%. The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyer General Obligation 10-Bond Municipal Index.

The plan has not had a formal actuarial experience study performed.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
 Rayville, Louisiana
 Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 8 - OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)

The following schedule presents the changes in the Assessor's total OPEB liability for the fiscal year 2023:

Service Cost	73,758
Interest on total OPEB liability	88,374
Effect of economic/demographic gains or losses	-
Effect of assumption changes or inputs	100,017
Benefit payments	<u>(37,490)</u>
Net Change in total OPEB liability	284,459
Total OPEB liability, December 31, 2021	2,320,571
Total OPEB liability, December 31, 2023	<u>2,605,030</u>

The following schedule presents the total OPEB liability of the Assessor, calculated using the discount rate of 3.26%, as well as what the Assessor's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (2.26%) or 1 percentage point higher (4.26%) than the current rate.

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Discount</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
	<u>2.26%</u>	<u>Rate 3.26%</u>	<u>4.26%</u>
Total OPEB Liability	3,157,252	2,605,030	2,176,917

The following schedule presents the total OPEB liability of the Assessor, calculated using the current healthcare cost trend rates as well as what the Assessor's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current trend rates.

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
	<u>2.175,579</u>	<u>Trend</u>	<u>3,183,304</u>
Total OPEB Liability	2,175,579	2,605,030	3,183,304

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Assessor recognized OPEB expense of \$163,613. At December 31, 2023, the Assessor reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the OPEB from the following sources.

	<u>Deferred</u>	<u>Deferred</u>
	<u>Outflows of</u>	<u>Inflows of</u>
	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Resources</u>
Differences between:		
Expected and actual experience	188,610	(19,574)
Changes in Assumption	395,103	(509,495)
Amounts paid subsequent to the Measurement date	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>583,713</u>	<u>(529,069)</u>

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 8 - OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)

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

Year ended December 31:		
	2024	12,579
	2025	31,881
	2026	62,922
	2027	(7,461)
	2028	(23,035)
	Thereafter	(22,042)
		<u>54,644</u>

NOTE 9 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Richland Parish Assessor's office is located in the courthouse of Richland Parish. The Police Jury provides the office space for the Assessor's office. Minor repairs, electricity, water, and sewer fees are all paid by the Police Jury.

On December 11, 2020, the Assessor entered into a cooperative project with the Richland 911 Board to purchase ariel photography imagery services from Pictometry International Corp. The Assessor agreed to pay one half of \$26,720 or \$13,360 on the second anniversary of the delivery of the ariel photography. The Assessor paid a total of \$13,360 in 2023 for imagery services.

NOTE 10 - LEASES

The Richland Parish Assessor has entered into the following operating leases.

On September 21, 2023, the assessor's office signed a contract for the right to use a copier and fax. The contract has monthly payments of \$215 for 60 months. The lease was noncancelable and contains an option to purchase the equipment at fair market value at the end of the lease. This lease was accounted for under the requirements of GASB Statement No. 87, Leases. The total value of the right to use the equipment and the lease obligation was \$11,066 calculated at present value using a 6-incremental borrowing rate at the inception of the lease. Payments under this lease totaled \$430 for 2023. Of those lease payments \$264 was allocated to the principal of the lease obligation and \$166 was allocated to related interest expense. In addition, the amortization on the right to use the leased equipment was \$369 for the current year. These amounts were included in the statement of activities.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
 Rayville, Louisiana
 Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 10 - LEASES (Continued)

The following is a schedule by years of the amortization of the right to use the leased equipment and the future minimum lease payments required under the lease, as of December 31, 2023.

	<u>Operating Leases</u>					Total Minimum Lease Payments
	<u>Right to Use Asset</u>	<u>Amortization</u>	<u>Lease Obligation</u>	<u>Lease Principal</u>	<u>Interest Expense</u>	
2024	8,484	2,213	8,815	1,986	594	2,580
2025	6,271	2,213	6,707	2,108	472	2,580
2026	4,058	2,213	4,409	2,238	342	2,580
2027	1,845	2,213	2,092	2,377	203	2,580
2028	-	1,845	-	2,092	58	2,150
Totals		<u>10,697</u>		<u>10,801</u>	<u>1,669</u>	<u>12,470</u>

NOTE 11 - CONTRACTS AND COMMITMENTS

On January 30, 2023, the Assessor's Office had a contract with Fritchard & Abbott, Inc, to provide appraisal services for the 2023-2024 tax years. The contract required four semiannual payments of \$5,500 due in July and November. In 2023, the Assessor's Office paid \$11,000 for appraisal services.

On September 15, 2022, the Assessors Office entered into a cooperative agreement with the Louisiana Assessors Association and Marshall & Swift/Boeckh, LCC, to provide software and services to the participating Assessors' offices from September 2022 through September 2024, with fees to be allocated on a pro rata basis. The assessor's pro rata share, \$2,808, was paid in 2023.

The Assessor has contracted with L7C, Inc. to provide software and hardware support for the server and computers in the Assessor's Office. The monthly retainer is \$935. In 2023, the Assessor paid \$11,220 in retainer for IT support services.

On July 1, 2023, the Assessor contracted with Software & Services to provide web hosting and online application support for July 2023 through July 2024. In 2023, the Assessor paid \$8,731 in fees.

On January 20, 2023, the Assessor contracted with DataScout, LLC, for database software and support for one year. In 2023, The Assessor paid \$5,974 in fees for database software licenses and support.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 12 - TAX ABATEMENTS

The Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) provided through the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, (authorized pursuant to Article VII, Part II, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974) authorizes the abatement of ad valorem taxes for a period of up to ten years on capital improvements and equipment related to manufacturing. Exempted property will be excluded from the taxable assessments in the parish tax rolls. The Assessor abated property taxes to entities in the parish through the ITEP in the amount of \$138,603 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

NOTE 13 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Assessor is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Assessor has obtained coverage from various commercial insurance companies to reduce the exposure to these risks.

NOTE 14 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Assessor evaluated its December 31, 2023 financial statements for subsequent events through June 14, 2024, the date for which the financial statements were available for distribution, for potential recognition and disclosure.

See Auditors' Report.

**OTHER REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget (GAAP Basis) and Actual - Governmental Fund Type
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues				
Ad Valorem Taxes	1,670,900	1,849,000	1,935,115	87,115
Fire District Fees	11,000	11,000	11,805	805
Other Revenue - preparing tax rolls, etc.	11,200	11,200	12,079	879
Interest & Investment Earnings	10,900	100,900	229,863	129,863
Total Revenues	1,735,200	1,979,200	2,182,872	212,772
Expenditures				
Current -				
General Government:				
Personnel Services and Related Benefits	839,597	840,500	774,870	65,530
Operating Service	146,700	147,700	107,704	39,096
Materials and Supplies	25,100	25,100	15,609	9,561
Travel and Other Charges	59,700	61,700	47,136	14,564
Capital Outlay	30,000	30,000	-	30,000
Total Expenditures	1,100,797	1,105,000	945,409	159,591
Net Change in Fund Balance	634,403	874,200	1,237,463	371,363
Fund Balance - January 1, 2023			12,873,239	
Fund Balance - December 31, 2023			<u>14,110,702</u>	

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EIDELAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023 and Prior Years ending 2018-2021
(Unaudited)

	Year-end 2023	Year-end 2022	Year-end 2021	Year-end 2020	Year-end 2019	Year-end 2018
Service Costs	73,753	114,810	125,793	102,953	54,268	67,964
Interest on total OPEB Liability	88,374	54,680	52,543	53,555	60,072	64,694
Effect of plan changes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Effect of economic/demographic gains or (losses)	-	175,144	-	120,467	-	(36,646)
Effect of assumption changes or inputs	185,017	(545,517)	28,117	135,491	359,410	(406,838)
Benefit payments	<u>(57,693)</u>	<u>(38,173)</u>	<u>(12,835)</u>	<u>(22,461)</u>	<u>(21,696)</u>	<u>(20,230)</u>
Net Change in total OPEB liability	184,458	(237,050)	193,127	490,300	451,061	(383,636)
Total OPEB liability, beginning	<u>2,310,571</u>	<u>2,557,627</u>	<u>2,364,000</u>	<u>1,873,694</u>	<u>1,421,632</u>	<u>1,805,268</u>
Total OPEB liability, ending	<u><u>2,495,030</u></u>	<u><u>2,320,577</u></u>	<u><u>2,557,127</u></u>	<u><u>2,364,000</u></u>	<u><u>1,873,694</u></u>	<u><u>1,421,632</u></u>
Covered Payroll	500,001	484,469	608,130	575,439	494,541	575,000
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll	514.76%	499.82%	419.57%	410.82%	378.87%	247.24%

The trends in these amounts are significantly affected by changes in benefit terms, the size of composition of the population covered by the benefit terms, and assumptions used in actuarial valuation.

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be presented as they become available.

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
 Rayville, Louisiana

Schedule of Required Pension Contributions
 For the Years Ended December 31, 2022, and Prior Years Ending 2019-2020

	Year-end 2022	Year-end 2021	Year-end 2020	Year-end 2019
Contractually required contribution	18,790	23,014	36,584	38,494
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	18,790	23,014	36,584	38,494
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-
Assessor's covered employee payroll	484,897	435,356	506,266	476,054
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	3.88%	4.85%	7.24%	8.09%

	Year-end 2018	Year-end 2017	Year-end 2016	Year-end 2015
5 Contractually required contribution	37,204	34,827	40,819	52,694
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	37,204	34,827	40,819	52,694
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-
Assessor's covered employee payroll	465,053	431,842	416,211	413,117
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	8.00%	7.85%	9.81%	12.76%

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be presented as they become available.

See Auditor's Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Schedule of Proportional Share of The Net Pension
Liability and Related Ratios
For the Years Ended December 31, 2013, and Fiscal Years ending 2015-2016

	Year-end 2012	Year-end 2013	Year-end 2014	Year-end 2015
Assessor's proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.974357	1.073102	1.080197	1.074125
Assessor's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	475,461	714,366	(355,130)	157,105
State's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability associated with the Assessor	-	-	-	-
Total	475,461	714,366	(355,130)	157,105
Assessor's Covered employee payroll	494,807	485,355	509,160	487,054
Assessor's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	92.71%	142.10%	69.73%	32.47%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a percentage of the total Pension Liability	50.91%	87.25%	100.46%	90.79%

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	Year-end 2014	Year-end 2015	Year-end 2017	Year-end 2018	Year-end 2019
Assessor's proportion of the Net Pension Liability	1.093777	0.972074	0.972016	0.940951	0.939709
Assessor's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	271,390	155,975	170,703	321,717	491,200
State's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability associated with the Assessor	-	-	-	-	-
Total	271,390	155,975	170,703	321,716	491,200
Assessor's Covered employee payroll	465,053	432,842	419,211	413,317	397,770
Assessor's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	58.14%	33.16%	39.77%	76.30%	123.51
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a percentage of the total Pension Liability	94.11%	95.40%	95.71%	90.66%	95.57%

The State makes required contributions to the various retirement systems. The States share of the Net Pension Liability is not stated.

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be presented as they become available.

See Audit 201 Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Schedule of Compensation, Reimbursements, Benefits and Other Payments
to the Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Emmett "Lee" Brown, III

Salary	136,386
Expense Checks	13,839
Benefits - Insurance	26,785
Benefits - Retirement	18,077
Vehicle Allowance	22,834
Deferred Compensation Match	11,598
Travel	3,333
Dues and Registration Fes	<u>2,572</u>
	<u><u>237,424</u></u>

See Auditors' Report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

COCHRAN, CLARK & THOMASON

A CORPORATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
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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*

Richland Parish Assessor
Rayville, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 governmental activities and the major fund of the Richland Parish Assessor, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Richland Parish Assessor's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 14, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Richland Parish Assessor'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 opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Richland Parish Assessor's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Richland Parish Assessor's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Richland Parish Assessor'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*.

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.

COCHRAN, CLARK & THOMASON

Cochran Clark & Thomason

Rayville, LA
June 14, 2024

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Schedule of Findings and Responses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

A. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

1. The Auditors' report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of the Richland Parish Assessor.
2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the Richland Parish Assessor were disclosed during the audit.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT

No findings in audit report for the year ended 2023.

See Auditors' Report.

RICHLAND PARISH ASSESSOR
Rayville, Louisiana

Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

No findings in audit report for the year ended 2021.

See Auditors' Report.

COCHRAN, CLARK & THOMASON

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Richland Parish Assessor and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The management of the Richland Parish Assessor is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Richland Parish Assessor has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

a) Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:

i. Budgeting, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.

No exceptions

ii. Purchasing, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.

No exceptions

iii. Disbursements, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

No exceptions

- iv. Receipts/Collections, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
No exceptions
- v. Payroll/Personnel, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
No exceptions
- vi. Contracting, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
No exceptions
- vii. Travel and Expense Reimbursement, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
No exceptions
- viii. Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable), including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
No exceptions
- ix. Ethics , including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
No exceptions
- x. Debt Service, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
No exceptions

- xi. Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

There is no written policy for the timely application of software and updates and patches.

- xii. Prevention of Sexual Harassment, including E.S. 41:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

No exceptions

2) Board or Finance Committee

Not applicable

- a) Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and,

- i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.
- ii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- iii. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

3) Bank Reconciliations

No exceptions

- a) Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged); and
 - iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

No exceptions

- a) Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- b) For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that
- i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
 - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;

- iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and
 - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
- c) Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.
- d) Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc. Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
 - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
 - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
 - iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
 - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.
- 5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

No exceptions

- a) Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- b) For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then

inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that

- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
 - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
 - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
 - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means. [Note: Findings related to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]
- c) For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
 - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
- d) Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

No exceptions

- a) Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards . Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
- b) Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
 - i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- c) Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection) . For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

No exceptions

- a) Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid

expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);
- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

8) Contracts

No exceptions

- a) Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. Alternatively, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and
 - i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
 - ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
 - iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
 - iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

9) Payroll and Personnel

No exceptions

- a) Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- b) Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
 - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
 - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
 - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- c) Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
- d) Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

10) Ethics

No exceptions

- a) Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
 - i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and

ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

b) Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

11) Debt Service

No exceptions

a) Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.

b) Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

12) Fraud Notice

No exceptions

a) Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

b) Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

No exceptions

a) Perform the following procedures, verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."

i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past

week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

- ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
 - iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.
- b) Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
 - c) Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267 . The requirements are as follows:
 - Hired before June 9, 2020 - completed the training; and
 - Hired on or after June 9, 2020 - completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

No exceptions

- a) Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- b) Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
- c) Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
 - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;

- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

We were engaged by the Richland Parish Assessor to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of Richland Parish Assessor and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Cochran, Clark & Thomason

Cochran Clark & Thomason

Rayville, La
June 14, 2024

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MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE TO STATEWIDE AGREED UPON PROCEDURES FINDINGS

1. a. xi). We have updated our written policy to include our procedures for timely updates of our systems and software.