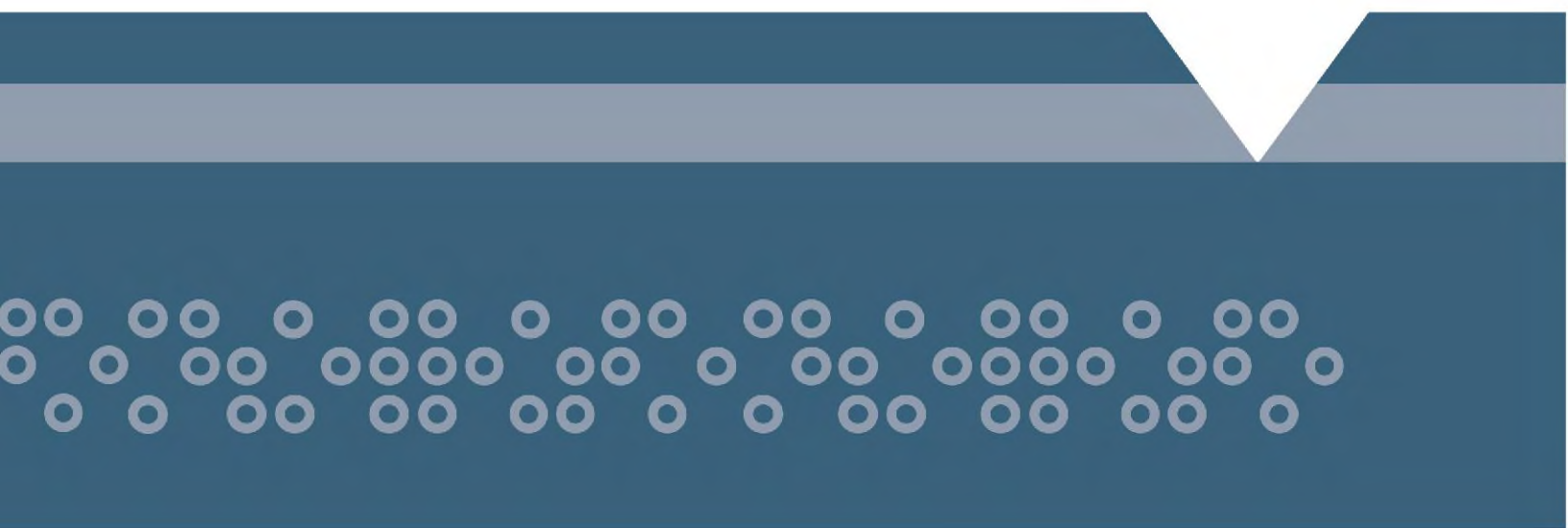


**Ouachita Parish Coroner's
Office**

West Monroe, Louisiana

Annual Financial Report December
31, 2023



CERTIFIED PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA

DECEMBER 31, 2023

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1-3

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Government Wide and Fund Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position	4
Statement of Activities	5
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	6
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position	7
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds	8
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10-14

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Budgetary Comparison Schedule	15
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OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	16
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OTHER REPORTS

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	17-18
Schedule of Findings and Responses	19
Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Responses	20

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



PREMIER PLAZA
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To the Ouachita Parish Coroner
West Monroe, Louisiana

Independent Auditors' Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office (the Coroner) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Coroner'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 and each major fund of the Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). 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 Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for 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 Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office'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 opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS 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 GAAS 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 Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office'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 Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office'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.

Emphasis of Matter

Management has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting and for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information on page 15 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

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Coroner's basic financial statements. The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer on page 16 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 31, 2024, on our consideration of Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office'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 solely 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 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 the Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Monroe, Louisiana

May 31, 2024

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2023

<u>Assets:</u>	
Cash	195,205
Accounts Receivable	
Services	<u>9,540</u>
Total assets	<u>204,745</u>
<u>Liabilities:</u>	
Transportation Funds Escrow	144,108
Payroll liabilities	256
Accounts payable – Coroner	<u>60,381</u>
Total liabilities	<u>204,745</u>
<u>Net position:</u>	
Unrestricted	<u>-</u>
Total net position	<u><u>-</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenue</u>	<u>Net (Expenses) Revenues and Change in Net Position</u>
		<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<u>Governmental activities:</u>			
General government			
Public safety	<u>791,297</u>	<u>791,297</u>	<u>-</u>
Total governmental activities	<u>791,297</u>	<u>791,297</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Change in net position</u>			<u>-</u>
<u>Net position-beginning of year</u>			<u>-</u>
<u>Net position-end of year</u>			<u>-</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

QUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>
<u>Assets:</u>	
Cash	195,205
Accounts Receivable	
Services	<u>9,540</u>
Total assets	<u><u>204,745</u></u>
<u>Liabilities:</u>	
Transportation Funds Escrow	144,108
Payroll liabilities	256
Accounts payable – Coroner	<u>60,381</u>
Total liabilities	<u><u>204,745</u></u>
<u>Fund balances:</u>	
Unassigned	<u>-</u>
Total fund balances	<u><u>-</u></u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u><u>204,745</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2023

Total fund balance for governmental funds at December 31, 2023	<u> -</u>
Total net position of governmental activities at December 31, 2023	<u> -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

QUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>	
Coroner fees	599,194
Reimbursements	167,485
Other income	<u>24,618</u>
Total revenues	791,297
 <u>Expenditures:</u>	
Reimbursable expenses	
Salaries	198,119
Reimbursable payroll tax expense	16,642
Travel	<u>25,770</u>
	<u>240,531</u>
 Operating expenses	
Service fees	222,060
Salaries	212,007
Payroll taxes	15,461
Coroner coverage fees	82,600
Professional fees	12,800
Other	<u>5,838</u>
	<u>550,766</u>
 <u>Total expenditures</u>	<u>791,297</u>
 <u>Excess of revenues over expenditures</u>	-
 <u>Change in Fund Balance</u>	
Fund balance-beginning of year	<u>-</u>
 Fund balance-end of year	<u><u>-</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Total excess of revenues over expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2023 per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	<u> -</u>
--	--------------------

Total change in net position for the year ended December 31, 2023 per Statement of Activities	<u> -</u>
--	--------------------

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

As provided by Chapter 3 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Statutes of 1950, the Coroner for Ouachita Parish is elected by the voters of Ouachita Parish for a four-year term. The Coroner investigates all deaths, performs autopsies, furnishes death certificates, provides mental health services and examines cases for other crimes under police investigation.

The accounting policies of Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office (the Coroner) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies:

a. Reporting Entity:

The Ouachita Parish Coroner is an independently elected parish official. As such, the Coroner is solely responsible for the operations of his/her office and accordingly, is a separate governmental reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements represent the financial activity of the Coroner's office and include all governmental activities, funds, account groups, and activities that are controlled by the Coroner as an independently elected official. Certain entities of the local government over which the Coroner's office exercises no oversight responsibility, such as the parish police jury, other independently elected parish officials, and municipalities within the parish are excluded from accompanying general purpose financial statements. These units of the government are considered separate reporting entities and issue general purpose financial statements separate from that of the Coroner's Office.

b. Basis of Presentation:

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The financial statements consist of the government-wide statements on all activities of the Coroner and the governmental fund financial statements.

Government-wide Financial Statements:

The government-wide financial statements include the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities for all activities of the Coroner. The government-wide presentation focuses primarily on the sustainability of the Coroner as an entity and the change in aggregate financial position resulting from the activities of the fiscal period.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements:

The Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures, or expenses as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in the fund based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The following is the governmental fund of the Coroner:

General Fund: The General Fund, a governmental fund type, is the general operating fund of the Coroner. It is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

c. Measurement Focus and 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.

Government-wide Financial Statements:

The government-wide financial statements are presented using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligible requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Fund Financial Statements:

All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other uses) in net current assets. Governmental funds are maintained on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Governmental fund revenues resulting from exchange transactions are recognized in the fiscal year in which the exchange takes place and meets the government's availability criteria (susceptible to accrual). Available means that the resources will be collected within the current year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current year. Charges for services are recorded when earned since they are measurable and available. Miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenues when received in cash by the Coroner because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Intergovernmental revenues represent reimbursements for employee salaries, payroll taxes, insurance, and other expenditures. Such revenues are recorded when the qualifying expenditure is incurred.

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. Allocations of cost such as depreciation are not recognized in the governmental funds.

d. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

e. Budgetary Accounting

The Coroner's Office is legally required to prepare a budget. The budget is prepared and adopted prior to the beginning of each fiscal year and was amended once prior to year end. The budget presentation is included in the required supplementary information.

f. Compensated Absences

Employees of the Coroner's Office are entitled to paid vacations, sick days and other time off depending on job classification, length of service and other factors. The Coroner's Office does not accumulate vacation or sick time. The estimate for the amount of compensation for future absences was immaterial and, accordingly, no liability has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements. The Coroner's Office's policy is to recognize the costs of compensated absences when paid.

g. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes amounts in demand deposit, interest-bearing demand, and time deposits. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less when purchased. Under state law, the entity may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

h. Accounts Receivable

The financial statements for the Coroner contain no allowance for uncollectible accounts. Uncollectible amounts (including amounts due from other governmental entities) are recognized as bad debts at the time information becomes available which would indicate the uncollectibility of the particular receivable. These amounts are not considered to be material in relation to the financial position or operations of the Coroner.

i. Revenue - Coroner Fees

The Coroner bills the Cities of Monroe and West Monroe as well as the Ouachita Parish Police Jury for various services rendered based on a fee schedule. Other parishes are billed for Coroner Emergency Certificates issued only.

j. Expenditures/ Expenses:

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

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report expenditures of financial resources.

k. Fund Equity

Government-wide Statements:

Equity is classified as a net position and displayed in up to three components:

- a. Invested 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, if any.
- b. Restricted - Consists of assets and deferred outflow of resources less liabilities and deferred inflow of resources (net position) with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributions or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted - All other net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "invested in capital assets."

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Coroner's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed. As of December 31, 2023, and for the year then ended, the Coroner did not have or receive restricted resources.

Fund Financial Statements:

Government fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as follows:

- a. Non-spendable - amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in non-spendable 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, charter requirements or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributor, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed - amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Coroner. Commitment may be established, modified, or rescinded only through ordinances or resolutions approved by the Coroner.
- d. Assigned - amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as either restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes.
- e. Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

For the classification of Governmental Fund balances, the Coroner considers an expenditure to be made from the most restrictive first when more than one classification is available. The Coroner's fund balance was classified as unassigned as of December 31, 2023.

2. Related Party Transactions

The Coroner's office location is provided by the OPPJ. Certain expenses of the Coroner are subject to reimbursement by the OPPJ and are submitted for reimbursement on a monthly basis. Beginning September 1, 2013, all expenses of the Coroner subject to reimbursement by OPPJ are being reimbursed from an OPPJ bank account. The Cash-OPCO Transportation account will no longer be used for reimbursing Coroner expenses. The Coroner will continue to bill and collect transport fees to all jurisdictions served.

3. Concentration of Credit Risk

The Coroner provides the coroner and interdiction services under normal credit arrangements. Most of the Coroner's clients are located in northeastern Louisiana.

The Coroner has concentrated its risk for cash by maintaining deposits in one bank. At December 31, 2023 there were no balances that exceeded the amount covered by federal deposit insurance.

Unless otherwise disclosed, the Coroner does not obtain collateral or other security to support financial instruments subject to credit risk.

4. Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted

The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued the following Statement which will become effective in future years:

Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* – This Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023.

Subsequent Events

Management evaluates events and transactions that occur after the balance sheet date but before the financial statements are made available. Management evaluated such events and transactions through May 31, 2024, the date for which financial statements were made available for distribution, and other than what is referenced below, noted no significant subsequent events as of this date.

A new coroner was elected in October, 2023 and assumed office effective March, 2024. The new coroner's office will file their own financial report and no funds are carried over from the previous coroner.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE (UNAUDITED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance – Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Coroner fees	580,000	600,000	599,194	(806)
Reimbursements	160,000	165,000	167,485	2,485
Other income	<u>35,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>24,618</u>	<u>(382)</u>
Total revenues	775,000	790,000	791,297	1,297
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Reimbursable expenses				
Salaries	180,000	195,000	198,119	(3,119)
Reimbursable payroll tax expense	14,900	16,400	16,642	(242)
Travel	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,500</u>	<u>25,770</u>	<u>(270)</u>
	<u>219,900</u>	<u>236,900</u>	<u>240,531</u>	<u>(3,631)</u>
Operating expenses				
Service fees	235,800	222,950	222,060	890
Salaries	225,000	215,000	212,007	2,993
Payroll taxes	17,300	16,000	15,461	539
Coroner coverage fees	60,000	81,000	82,600	(1,600)
Professional fees	12,000	12,500	12,800	(300)
Other	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>5,838</u>	<u>(188)</u>
	<u>555,100</u>	<u>553,100</u>	<u>550,766</u>	<u>2,334</u>
<u>Total expenditures</u>	<u>775,000</u>	<u>790,000</u>	<u>791,297</u>	<u>(1,297)</u>
<u>Excess of revenues over expenditures</u>	-	-	-	-
<u>Fund balance-beginning of year</u>	-	-	-	-
<u>Fund balance-end of year</u>	-	-	-	-

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE
SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO
AGENCY HEAD OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Agency Head Name: Dr. Teri O'Neal

Purpose

Coroner Service Fees	<u>Amount</u>
• Cash basis (Actual payments)	\$220,083
• ,Accrual basis (Fees earned)	\$222,060

OTHER REPORTS



PREMIER PLAZA
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To the Ouachita Parish Coroner
West Monroe, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's 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

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 each major fund of Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office (the Coroner) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Coroner's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 31, 2024.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Coroner's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Coroner's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion of the effectiveness of the Coroner'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 have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Coroner'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.

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC
Monroe, Louisiana
May 31, 2024

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE
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 basic financial statements of Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office.
2. No instances of noncompliance material to the basic financial statements were disclosed during the audit.
3. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control, relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported.
4. No management letter was issued in connection with the audit.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT

None

OUACHITA PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

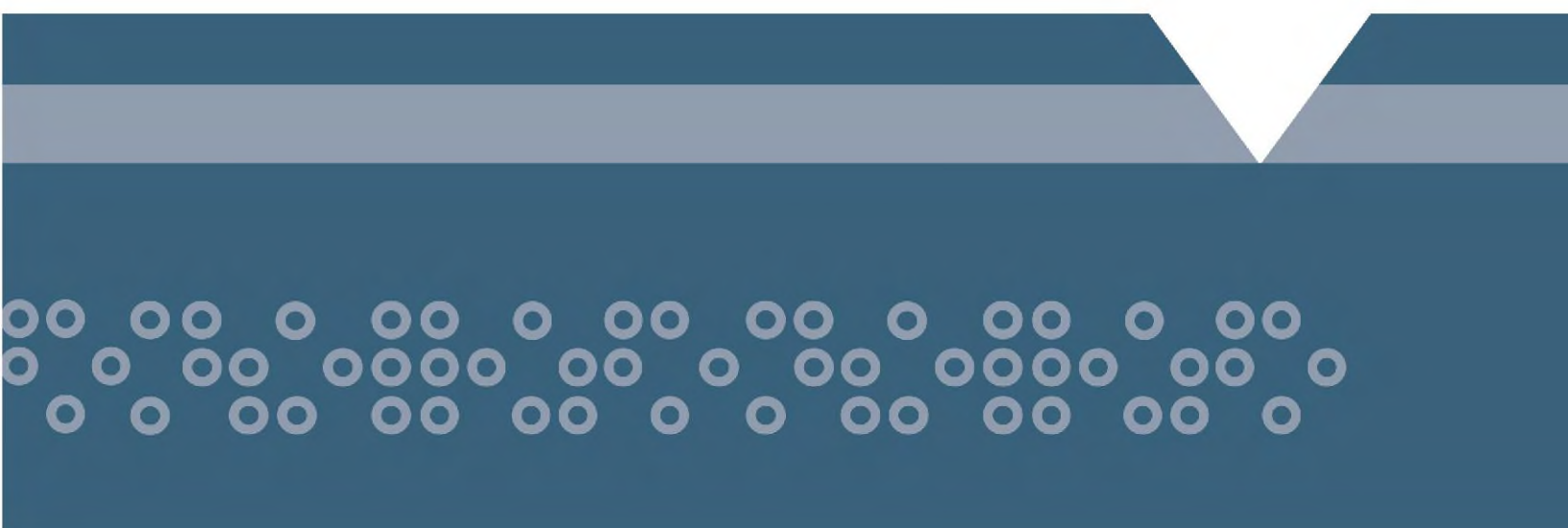
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

None

Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office

West Monroe, Louisiana

Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures Report 2023



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ACCOUNTANTS



PREMIER PLAZA
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Ouachita Parish Coroner
West Monroe, Louisiana

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

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. Management of Ouachita Parish Coroner (Coroner) is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. These Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures were applied only to Coroner's control and compliance areas, as these are the areas that involve the use of public monies.

Coroner 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:

Written Policies and Procedures

1. 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:

a) ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget

The entity does not have a written policy addressing budgeting.

b) ***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.

The entity does not have a written purchasing policy; however, it does not make any major purchases. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- c) **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

The entity does not have a written policy regarding disbursements. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- d) **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).

The entity does not have a written policy regarding receipts/collections. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- e) **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.

The entity does not have a written policy regarding payroll/personnel. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.

The entity does not have a written policy regarding contracting. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- g) **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)

The entity does not have a written policy regarding credit cards. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- h) **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.

The entity does not have a written policy regarding travel and expense reimbursements. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statutes 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.

The entity does not have a written policy regarding ethics. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

Not applicable as the Coroner may not issue debt.

- k) **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.

The entity has no written policy regarding information technology disaster recovery/business continuity. There are procedures in place that provide controls.

- l) **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Not applicable to the Coroner.

Management's Response: Although there are no written policies covering these areas, there are established procedures which are deemed to be adequate due to the small number of employees involved.

Board or Finance Committee

- 2. The Coroner is an independently elected official. No board exists; therefore, this section is not applicable.

Bank Reconciliations

- 3. 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:

- a) 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);

Bank reconciliations were prepared for each account selected and included evidence of having been prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date.

- b) Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

Bank reconciliations evidenced review by the Coroner within 1 month of preparation.

- c) 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.

Entity has no reconciling items outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date.

Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

4. 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).

A listing of deposit sites was obtained from management.

5. 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 (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, 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:

- a) Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.

Each employee responsible for collecting cash does not share the cash drawer with another employee.

- b) 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.

The employee who opens the mail receiving checks does not make deposits.

- c) 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.

Each employee responsible for collecting cash does not post collection entries to the general or subsidiary ledgers.

- d) 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.

The employee responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general or subsidiary ledgers is not responsible for collecting cash.

6. 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.

The entity is covered for theft under an insurance policy that was in effect during the fiscal period.

7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliation procedure #3 (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). *Alternately, 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:

- a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

Not applicable as all receipts are via mail and do not include cash.

- b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.

No exceptions.

- c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

No exceptions.

- d) 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).

Deposits are made weekly but contain less than \$100 cash.

- e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

No exceptions.

Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

- 8. 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).

A listing of locations was obtained from management.

- 9. For each location selected under #8 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, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.

An employee can initiate a purchase request, which is then approved by the Coroner.

- b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.

The bookkeeper processes vendor payments and payments are approved by the Coroner.

- c) 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.

The bookkeeper adds/modifies vendor files; however all vendors are approved by the Coroner.

- d) 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.

All checks are signed by the Coroner and an employee mails the checks who has no responsibilities with processing payments.

- e) Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (ETF), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

Only electronic disbursements are payroll tax deposits. These are approved by the Coroner at time of payroll preparation.

- 10. For each location selected under #8 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:

- a) Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original invoice and that supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.

For all selections, no exceptions noted.

- b) Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

For all selections, no exceptions noted.

- 11. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure 3, 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.

For all selections, no exceptions noted.

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

- 12. 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, 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.

A listing of cards was obtained from management.

- 13. 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:

- a) 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) was reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder.

Someone other than the cardholder approved, in writing for all cards.

- b) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

Finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

14. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #13 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 (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). 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.

Two of the selected transactions were not supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies exactly what was purchased. A copy of the receipt was included with the monthly statement.

Management's Response: The two transactions were for online orders which did not include an invoice with the shipment. Employees will be instructed to print the order confirmation email to retain as the original transaction receipt.

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

15. 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, 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:

- a) 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).

No exceptions noted.

- b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.

No exceptions noted.

- c) 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 #1.h).

No exceptions noted.

- d) Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

No exceptions noted.

Contracts

16. 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. *Alternately, 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:

- a) 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.

Not applicable.

- b) Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).

No written contracts in place.

- c) 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

No written contracts in place.

- d) 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.

No written contracts in place.

Management Response: All professional services are provided at agreed-upon fee rates. No written contracts are in place, but standard fee rates are communicated to all parties.

Payroll and Personnel

17. 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.

Obtained listing from Management and agreed selected employees' salaries and pay rates without exception.

18. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #17 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:

- a) Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).

No exceptions noted.

- b) Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.

No exceptions noted.

- c) Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.

Records covering accrued and used leave appear reasonable.

- d) Observe that the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

No exceptions noted.

- 19. 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, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

No exceptions noted.

- 20. 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.

Management's representation was obtained covering these statements.

Ethics

- 21. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:

- a. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

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

Ethics designee has been appointed.

Debt Service

Not applicable since the Coroner cannot issue debt.

Fraud Notice

23. 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.

N/A – no misappropriations of public funds identified during the fiscal period.

24. 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.

No exceptions noted.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

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

- a. 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 that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the entity's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- b. 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.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- c. 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.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

26. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in Procedure #19. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

No exceptions noted.

27. Randomly Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #17, 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. 42:12671. The requirements are as follows:

1. Hired before June 9, 2020 - completed the training; and
2. Hired on or after June 9, 2020 - completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

Not applicable since reporting requirement does not apply to the Coroner's Office.

We were engaged by the Ouachita Parish Coroner 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 the Ouachita Parish Coroner 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.

Heard, McElroy & Vostal, LLC
Monroe, Louisiana
May 31, 2024